

No 61,492

MONDAY MARCH 28 1983

20p

THE TIMES Tomorrow

A shameful expulsion: Lord Bethell asks why the Government repatriated a Romanian, knowing he would return to a communist political prison. What is the difference between illegal immigration and escape to political freedom?

And, Bye Bye Bechers? Alan Hamilton, from Aintree, looks at the Grand National, the race that has had more farwells than Frank Sinatra.

Plus, Roger Scruton: do doctors interfere with our mortality?

20 Poles apply for asylum

Twenty Poles have defected from the Polish cruise ship *Sicilia Batory* and applied for political asylum in Britain, the Home Office announced last night.

It could not confirm reports that as many as nine more might be in hiding for fear of being repatriated. **Back page**

French furious at travel curb

French travel agents have reacted furiously to President Mitterrand's proposal to limit French tourists going abroad to limit £190 in foreign currency. But there has been reluctant support for the rest of his austerity measures. **Page 4**

Crime watch

The Metropolitan Police are to start four pilot schemes in London based on the neighbourhood watch schemes which have drastically reduced burglaries in four cities in the United States. **Page 4**

Strike change

The TUC is circulating a proposal that the next Labour Government should make it illegal for employers to dismiss workers for going on strike. **Page 2**

Coal board chief

Mr Ian MacGregor, £48,500-a-year chairman of the British Steel Corporation, is expected to be confirmed today in his new role as head of the National Coal Board. **Page 15**

Aid arriving

Relief agencies said their aid was reaching Ethiopian drought victims and there was no evidence that it was going to the Soviet Union. **Page 7**

Invader's story

General Mario Menendez, military governor of the Falkland Islands during the Argentine occupation, has defended his troops' performance, saying they did all they could with what was available. **Back page**

Free access

Pedestrians are to have free access to Land's End until a dispute over an alleged right of way is resolved between its owner and the district council. **Page 3**

Ripper doubt

Irish police have sent West Yorkshire police a copy of a Dublin magazine containing allegations that some of the 13 murders for which Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was convicted committed by another man still at large.

Dollar decision

The United States Federal Reserve Board faces a delicate decision today when it considers whether or not to increase money supply amid signs of renewed economic vigour. **Page 15**

Czech dilemma

In Czechoslovakia, which is "on parole" after the Dubcek era, the authorities face a dilemma in having to accept fundamental changes in society to pursue the economic reforms they desire. **Page 7**

Leader page 11
Letters: On arms space race, from Mr M Eve, and Mr R Blackburn; test for death, from Dr C Pallas; Ethiopia, from Mr G Witherington, and Mr F Wachsberger
Leading articles: Anthony Blunt: Iran and Iraq; the future of broadcasting
Features, pages 9 and 10
Mutual distrust in Moscow; the soldier who joined the Greens; why MPs should take flights; prepaid. Times profile: Willie Carson, man of a thousand fractures.
Obituary, page 12
Anthony Blunt

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|-------|
| Home News | 2-4 | Law Report | 20 |
| Overseas | 4, 6, 7 | Prem Bonds | 24 |
| Arts | 12, 16 | Religion | 12 |
| App. | 13 | Sale Room | 7 |
| Business | 14-16 | Science | 7 |
| Court | 12 | Sport | 17-19 |
| Crossword | 24 | TV & Radio | 23 |
| Diary | 10 | Weather | 24 |

Recession coming to an end says confident CBI

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry, accused by ministers last year of being too gloomy about the nation's economic prospects, issued a message of springtime cheer today and published some of its brightest industrial forecasts for three years.

With profits, output, exports and investment all showing marked improvements in the CBI's latest monthly trends inquiry, the employers' organisation was able to state that Britain is at last emerging from the worst recession since the 1930s. Industrialists are more confident than at any time in the last year that they are not seeing another false dawn.

The trends inquiry, conducted in the two weeks before the Budget, shows that while manufacturing activity remains at a low ebb, output expectations are stronger than at any time since the summer of 1979.

It added: "Anecdotal reports from CBI regions confirm that a widespread recovery in demand and output could be underway."

Orders are now said to be rising in most sectors including heavy industrial goods market, although the chief beneficiaries so far of the apparent upturn are the consumer goods and retail sectors.

Sir James Clesminson, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "I warned last month that not too much should be read into one month's results. But these latest figures confirm that for much of

manufacturing industry demand is rising even if only from the exceptionally low levels of the last few months."

The figures, which will gladden the heart of the Government in the last few days before the parliamentary Easter recess, show that 55 per cent of the 1,778 respondents consider their total order book to be at or above normal levels. Weakest demand remains in the mechanical engineering and metals sectors.

An even more significant improvement in export demand is apparent as the biggest rise occurring in the intermediate



Sir James Clesminson: Rise in demand confirmed

goods sector. More companies in the chemicals and allied industries are now reporting above rather than below normal overseas orders.

Since last November, the number of firms with excessive finished goods stocks has declined steadily and the pre-

sent balance of 12 per cent is the lowest since November 1979. Similarly, a positive balance of 16 per cent of firms expect volume of output to rise rather than fall in the next four months, the highest since June 1979.

Another encouraging sign is that domestic selling prices appear to have stabilised despite the increase in demand. Although 32 per cent expect prices to go up in the next four months, 63 per cent say there should be no change.

The regional reports, while confirming the upward trend, remain circumspect. The deeply depressed West Midlands said: "Firms are aware of the possibility that the apparent upturn is simply a repeat of 1982 with restocking in the first quarter giving the misleading impression of recovery. While the general level of activity is undoubtedly rising, it must be emphasized that the increase is from a very low base line - the fourth quarter of 1982, and the general mood is one of caution."

However, there are clear indications of growing optimism among companies who see that the prospect of lower oil prices, the start of a recovery in the all-important United States market, and improved British competitiveness after the fall in the pound, will combine to spark a consumer and reselling led to recovery in world trade.

Continued on back page, col 3

MPs to hold talks on Alliance leadership

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

With the leadership of the Liberal and Social Democratic Alliance again in question after the Darlington by-election, senior Liberals are waiting to learn from a meeting at Westminster tomorrow whether Social Democrat MPs may prefer Mr David Steel as potential Prime Minister to their own leader, Mr Roy Jenkins.

The 40 MPs of both Alliance parties are to hold their first joint discussion of who should be overall leader, and when an announcement should be made.

Since shortly after the two-party alliance was formed, and until recently, the assumption among the majority of both parties, and the unpublished agreement between the two leaders, has been that Mr Jenkins, with his ministerial experience, would be the right choice as leader of the putative Alliance government.

But many Liberals have not accepted that and Mr Steel, aware of this, has hesitated to commit himself in public to the second position.

His hesitation is buttressed by the fact that opinion polls regularly suggest that he is more popular than Mr Jenkins among electors generally and even among members and potential supporters of the SDP.

Yesterday Mr Jenkins himself, when closely questioned on television by Mr Brian Walden, said that of course he would serve under Mr Steel in government "if we jointly judged that was the right position." But it was clear that this was not his preferred role.

Asked if they did judge such a relationship to be right, Mr Jenkins said: "No, I do not think we do at the moment." He did not think that possible prime ministers should be chosen on the basis of "a sort of top of the pops thing."

Interviewed on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World*, Mr Jenkins thought experience of government could be important, but of course he did not have to be prime minister. He would defer to Mr Steel if the two of them, with

Continued on back page, col 1

SDP makes swift choice of new candidate

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The Social Democratic Party have selected a new candidate for the Cardiff, North-West, by-election, less than 48 hours after the resignation of their original candidate.

Mr Jeremy Anthony, aged 45, a solicitor from Cardiff, will now contest the safe Conservative seat for the Alliance in the by-election, which could take place on May 5.

Mr Anthony, who is married with five children, has been active in local community politics for many years. He had been chosen to fight Cardiff, West, at the general election. That nomination may now go to Mr Jeffrey Thomas, SDP MP for the Aberdare constituency, which is to disappear under boundary reorganisation.

The selection meeting was hastily arranged after to original SDP candidate, Mr Nick Jenkins, a local headmaster, announced on Friday, 10 days

after his selection, that he was resigning for health reasons.

Mr Jenkins, a bachelor, who weighs 16st and has blood pressure problems said: "Looking at the way the SDP candidate was treated in the Darlington by-election by the other parties, I don't think it would be wise for me to fight the seat."

No date has yet been set for the by-election, caused by the death of Mr Michael Roberts, Under-secretary of State for Wales, but the three main parties and Plaid Cymru have all chosen their candidates.

The Conservatives have selected Dr Martin Parry, the founder chairman of the Conservative association in the new seat in Deira, where his brother, Mr John Parry is the prospective Liberal Alliance candidate (the Press Association reports).

Minister is victim of boundary changes

By Our Political Editor

The redistribution of parliamentary seats, on the recommendation of the boundary commissions claimed its first ministerial victim at the weekend, when Mr Jock Bruce-Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said that he would retire from Parliament at the next general election rather than continue the hunt for a winnable constituency.

Mr Bruce-Gardyne is MP for Knutsford, which he won at a by-election in March 1979 after the death of Mr John Davies. He was chosen from more than 250 applicants. Before that he represented South Angus for 10 years.

After the decision to abolish the Knutsford seat, Mr Bruce-Gardyne exercised his right to be on the shortlist for selection in two new seats carved out of the constituency. Earlier this month, he and Mr Mark Carlisle, former Secretary of State for Education, were passed over for the new Tatton seat in favour of Mr Neil Hamilton of the Institute of Directors.

Then, on Friday, Mr Bruce-Gardyne was beaten again, for the new and equally safe seat of Congleton, by Mrs Ann Winterbottom, wife of Mr Nicholas Winterbottom, MP for neighbouring Macclesfield.

Mrs Winterbottom, mother of two sons aged 22 and 18 and a daughter aged 12, now at boarding school, was chosen on the first ballot from a shortlist of three. Her other rivals were Mr William Cash, a London solicitor, and Mr John Higginson, a Congleton town councillor.

Afterwards Mr Bruce-Gardyne told friends that he would give up the chase for a seat.

Last night, Mr Graham Elliott, a former chairman of the Knutsford Conservative Association, said the decision was a very sad one.

Mr Gary Waller, Conservative MP for Brighouse and Spenborough, which also disappears in the boundary changes, has been selected as prospective candidate for the enlarged seat of Keighley.

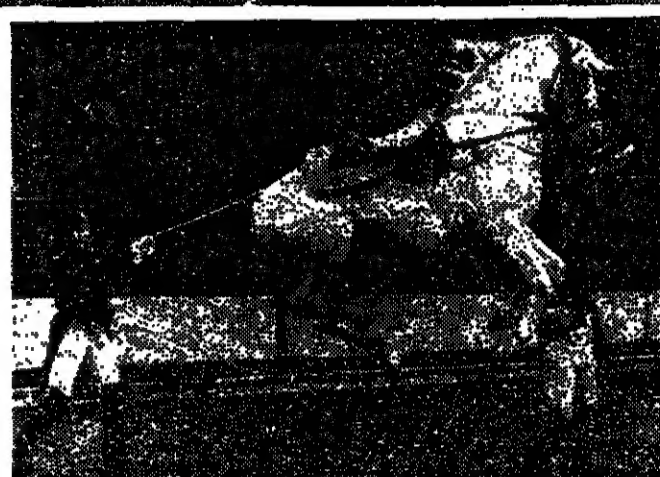


Lippizaner horses die in epidemic

A mysterious herpes virus has struck the stud farm of Austria's famous Lippizaner horses (above), killing 30 and leaving a number of others seriously ill. So far, the Royal Spanish Riding School in Vienna, where the dancing Lippizaner stallions are trained (right), has been unaffected, AP reports.

As a team of veterinary surgeons yesterday began preventive inoculations, Dr Othmar Schmechlik described the disease, rhinopneumonitis, as "atypical" in incidence, adding that Agriculture Ministry officials are mystified about the cause and rapid spread of the epidemic. It has struck Lippizaners alone.

The virus, which is related to



strains such as genital herpes in humans has killed five brood mares and 25 foals since the beginning of March. Five other mares appear to be infected and could die at the 220-horse farm, located at Fieber in south-western Austria.

"Once an animal is infected, there is no way of countering the disease," Dr Schmechlik said.

The ancient Lippizaner strain originated in the sixteenth century in what is now Yugoslavia, with the crossing of choice Arab and Spanish horses.

Illness sweeps Arab schools

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

More than 300 Palestinian schoolgirls from the occupied West Bank town of Jenin have been taken to hospital over the past 72 hours suffering from a mysterious illness. Local Arab leaders have blamed it on gas or other form of chemical attack launched by militant Israeli settlers.

As the epidemic continued to sweep through the town's girls' schools yesterday, the Israeli army imposed a strict curfew on the area, which houses 40,000 Arabs. The security measures were ordered after protesters demonstrating against the al-

leged poisoning attacked Israeli vehicles with sticks and stones.

According to one Arab resident who spoke to a reporter of the Palestinian newspaper, *Al Fajr*, terrified local residents were describing the incident as "the Sabra and Chatila of the West Bank".

The rumors had swept through the town by noon yesterday that the alleged poison could cause sterility to women, and this added to the state of panic. It was being said that Israeli extremists are using a gas employed by the Americans in Vietnam.

The incident, the most

bizarre of its kind since the West Bank was conquered in 1967, was feared likely to have serious consequences in a region where tension between Jews and Arabs has been running dangerously high recently.

According to Israeli sources, two Israeli women soldiers were also affected by the illness, which in a few cases has been serious. The illness has caused dizziness, vomiting, watery eyes, and headaches, but last night there was little in the way of hard fact to go on to explain the outbreak.

Blunt left no spy list, friend says

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Professor Anthony Blunt, the fourth man in the Philby affair who died at the weekend, aged 75, may have helped and protected Soviet espionage in Britain through his work in MI5.

Assessing his importance, a senior figure in the intelligence community said yesterday that Professor Blunt, who was exposed in 1979, did "a good deal of damage" during his days in the security service during the Second World War.

He gained access to far more than his colleagues realized and would have been able to tell the Russians of many security operations against the Germans and neutral countries. At the same time he could have passed on anyone who was suspected of being a communist agent in Britain, warning of counter-espionage operations and protecting the Communist Party from MI5 interest.

The source said: "He re-

ported all manner of things we were up to. He must have seen more than anyone calculated."

Mr Brian Sewell, a close friend, said the professor had considered writing his autobiography but abandoned the project. Mr Sewell said no list of other possible spies or contacts had been left by the professor and he doubted if personal papers of note remained.

Professor Blunt died at his home in London on Saturday. He is to be buried at Kingston, Surrey, on Wednesday.

In 1979 his espionage role was publicly revealed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher after questions prompted by Mr Andrew Boyle's book on the Cambridge spy ring.

Although a suspect after Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean fled to the Soviet Union in 1951, hard evidence could not then be found against him.

Leading article, page 11
Obituary, page 12

War of words on defence in space

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The war of words between Washington and Moscow intensified yesterday when the State Department firmly rejected Soviet charges that President Reagan's new proposals for missile defence in space would violate the 1972 anti-ballistic missile pact.

The State Department said it regretted that Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, had distorted the substance and intent of the President's proposal.

"We regret the tone and content of the Soviet leader's response," said the statement.

President Reagan had made clear that his aim was to explore the possibilities for reducing reliance on destabilising offensive ballistic missile systems and not "disarm" or gain unilateral advantage over the Soviet Union, as suggested by Mr Andropov in an interview in *Pravda*.

"The President foresees this research effort taking place on a very broad time scale and the task may not be accomplished before the end of the century," the statement said.

"The research effort the President has in mind will be carried out consistent with our obligations under the ABM treaty, which does not prohibit research into ballistic missile defence concepts. Indeed, the Soviet Union's effort in this area far surpasses those of the US and only the USSR has a deployed ABM force, around the Moscow area."

Taking up other points made by Mr Andropov, the statement said: "Although Mr Andropov characterizes as 'a deliberate lie' US statements that the USSR had failed to observe its proclaimed moratorium on deployment of intermediate range ballistic missiles, the fact is that when Mr Brezhnev (the late Soviet President) announced the moratorium in March 1982, the USSR had approximately 300 SS-20s."

Today, there are 351 SS-20s threatening US allies and France in Europe and the Far East and additional deployments are in progress. Moreover, new SS-20s continue to be deployed throughout this period both in the European portion of the USSR and at other bases within range of Western Europe."

The statement said that contrary to the assertion that the US seeks to make the West European countries "nuclear hostages" it was clearly the Soviet Union that had such an intention.

"The US and its NATO allies, on the other hand, have sought nothing more than to secure a balance - through arms control if possible or through deployments if necessary - to ensure that the West Europeans do not become 'nuclear hostages'."

Dangerous path, page 6
Letters, page 11

John le Carré's disturbing new thriller - a daring departure... a triumph... The Middle East as it is and as le Carré portrays it

The world's greatest fictional spymaster... complexity and brilliance... the most extraordinary that le Carré has yet written... not only a spy story; it's a political novel and a love story, too

A wonderful achievement... The most mature, inventive and powerful book about terrorists - come-to-life

...a work of enormous power... fiction on the grand scale

...a writer of elegance and importance, whose work transcends the genre

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW
WASHINGTON POST
LOS ANGELES TIMES

John le Carré
THE LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL
Hodder & Stoughton £8.95

Former Israeli Navy chief tipped as London envoy

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Reserve Rear-Admiral Shlomo Ereli, who was both imprisoned by the British and served courageously in the British merchant navy, has emerged as front-runner in the long search for a replacement for Mr Shlomo Argov, the Israeli Ambassador to London wounded by Arab gunmen last summer.

A senior Israeli Government official told *The Times* that Mr Ereli, aged 63, a former commander-in-chief of the Israeli Navy, was now considered the man most likely to get the job. "Nothing has been formalized, but his chances are very strong."



Rear-Admiral Ereli: Tipped as London envoy

appointment, Mr Ereli said yesterday from his home in the resort of Caesarea: "I am not in a position to say anything about that. You had better talk to the Foreign Ministry."

Before a decision is made, the appointment has to be approved by the Israeli Cabinet and the British Government.

Mr Ereli is understood to be favoured by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, both of whom are anxious to see the job go to a political appointee rather than a career diplomat.

The post has been controversial since the previous British envoy the Israeli plan to appoint Mr Elisha Lankin, the Ambassador in South Africa.

He fought against British forces in Palestine as a senior commander of the Irgun Jewish terrorist group.

the protests in London. This request, which saved the Government considerable embarrassment, came after Mrs Margaret Thatcher had sent a personal envoy to lobby Mr Begin against the choice.

Like Mr Lankin, Mr Ereli was interned by the British, but before he had taken part in any violent activity. He was imprisoned for six months immediately on arriving back in Palestine in 1938 from Italy, where he had been training at a naval school on behalf of Beter, the right-wing Jewish youth movement.

He first arrived in Palestine from his native Poland at the age of six.

"They let me go after I



Royal Scots celebrate 350th anniversary

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Britain's oldest regular infantry regiment, The Royal Scots, today celebrates the 350th anniversary of its formation. Its evolution is illustrated in the above strip, with drawings by Douglas N. Anderson.

In common with many other infantry regiments it has fallen on relatively hard times. In terms of size it reached a peak of 35 battalions, or probably more than 20,000 men, during the First World War, but now is reduced to one regular battalion and couple of companies in the Territorial Army.

However, unlike several proud regiments, it has been able to maintain its individual identity. In a special order of the day, the regiment's Colonel, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, says: "Today we stand at the head of the infantry of the line as one of the very few regiments that has never been amalgamated. We have suffered many blows but the regimental spirit is as high as it has ever been."

The regiment, which is officially known as The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), is just completing a two-year tour of duty in Northern Ireland, and throughout 1983 will be based at Kirkcubbin, near Edinburgh.

The regiment started life in the seventeenth century in the service of the King Louis XIII of France, but that position had changed long before it became the first unit to cross from Spain into France in pursuit of Napoleon's armies after the Peninsular Wars.

Members of the regiment have won seven Victoria Crosses (six in the First World War and one in the Crimea), and there is also a George Cross, won during the Second World War.

The anniversary is being celebrated with an extended programme of events including a reception in London today and a commemorative postal cover.

Make strikers' dismissal illegal, unions say

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders are seeking a change in labour law that would make it illegal for employers to dismiss workers for going on strike.

The proposal is one of a number under consideration by the TUC for sweeping changes in the individual rights of unionists to be introduced by the next Labour government.

The TUC General Council has sent to more than a hundred affiliated organizations a confidential policy paper outlining options for change, including a provision that dismissal for industrial action would be automatically unfair.

Alarmed at the growing practice of employers dismissing or threatening to dismiss their employees during an industrial dispute, the TUC wants repeal not only of section 9 of Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Act, 1982, which permits employers to dismiss workers selectively, thereby getting rid of "troublemakers".

At the instigation of the traditionally moderate Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the TUC also proposes repeal of section 62 of the last Labour government's Employment Protection (Consolidated) Act of 1978 which retains the employer's right to dismiss his striking workforce.

Leaders of AUEW argue: "The right to strike does not exist where striking remains a sacking offence."

It has been counter-argued that removing the employer's power to dismiss all workers in a dispute would unduly upset the then prevailing balance of power between employers and unions.

"However," the TUC paper insists, "it may be considered that the balance (of power) which existed during the relatively full employment in 1973 and 1974 is considerably different from that which exists at present."

In addition, the present power of employers to dismiss all employees on strike, which was rarely if ever used before 1973, has been more frequently used in recent years.

The TUC concedes that taking away this power "could swing the balance too far the other way" and place employers in an intolerable position during an industrial dispute, for example over a pay claim which they cannot afford to pay.

The document adds: "However, unions rarely, if ever, pursue matters which result in severe financial danger for the employer, and reasonable employers would not wish to sack workers in a dispute anyway."

Union leaders being asked for their views on this issue are reminded: "It has become an increasing practice of management (partly shaped by legislation) to dismiss all strikers, or more usually to warn employees that those who undertake industrial action will be considered to have dismissed themselves."

"Also, in the present climate of high unemployment, it is an easy option for managers to get rid of shop stewards and other union representatives by means of dismissing all those on strike without incurring unfair dismissal claims."

To combat the trend, the TUC proposes that engaging in industrial action ought to be made an "inadmissible reason" for dismissal. Anyone removed for that reason would be able automatically to claim unfair dismissal and win substantial compensation from an industrial tribunal.

The document proposes a variety of other improvements in individual rights at work. Methods of "preserving the employment relationship", such as a right to remain at work on full pay until a claim for unfair dismissal has been heard by an industrial tribunal, are canvassed.

Other changes proposed are: reduction of the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims from one year's service with an employer to only three months; reintroduction of minimum compensation awards, and increasing them to the £20,000 level applied by the Government to victims of the "closed shop"; and reintroduction of the burden on employers to show they had acted reasonably and with "just cause" for dismissing an employee.

Arms call for Irish warders

The government of the Irish Republic may be urged to arm off duty prison officers after the shooting on Friday night of a senior prison officer in Dublin, a spokesman for jail staff said last night.

The shooting was the first armed attack on a prison officer on the Republic.

As prison officers' leaders prepared yesterday for a meeting on security with Mr Michael Noonan, the Minister for Justice, Mr Tom Hoare, deputy general secretary of the Irish Prison Officers Association, said: "If the attack is the beginning of a concentrated campaign we would want prison officers armed when off duty."

Security was increased at Portlaoine prison where, the injured prison officer, Mr Brian Stack, aged 50, a father of three, was a chief officer.

Sources at the prison, where some of the republic's leading terrorists are serving long sentences, said the atmosphere was "tinder dry".

Mr Stack was last night in a critical condition on a life support machine in Meath hospital, Dublin.

An explosion of between 400 and 500 lbs of gelignite in a field at Crossmaglen in South Armagh yesterday has mystified security forces.

Police believe either that the blast was set off prematurely or that the IRA was testing some new device. No damage was caused to property and no one was injured.

Thatcher condemns election bribery

By Our Political Editor

The nation will have to make a clear and irrevocable choice between the Conservative and Labour parties within a year or so," the Prime Minister told the Conservative Central Council, meeting in Kensington, London, on Saturday.

Mrs Thatcher directed her followers' attention mainly to the party which had won the Darlington by-election two days earlier. With a Labour Government, she said, Britain would return to the old fudging and tuching from crisis to crisis, but the pace downhill would be faster, and the outlook for freedom darker.

"The Labour Party promises to give away £11,000m. The SDP virtually matches the bid. The figures are unbelievable, and so are the claims to offer a credible alternative government. Election bribery was cynical and corrosive, and the Conservatives would have nothing to do with it, she said.

Mrs Thatcher said the achievement of steady prices, lower interest rates, the opportunity for real growth and genuine jobs, was too hard won and precious to be put at risk. Yet that was what Labour's economics would do.

"They would destroy the foundation we have worked so hard to build. We have been through it all before - indeed, it looks as if some others in Europe are going through it all again."

At the same meeting Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, was cautious in discussing the effect of further changes planned by the Conservatives in trade union law, saying there was "no magic water-tight solution" to the problems of reforming the unions.

Mr Tebbit said that ballots would not always ensure that strike calls were ignored, or that so-called moderates would always win. But representative and fair elections were more likely to elect representative and fair men, and he was confident that they could find a way to enhance the likelihood of ballots being taken before strikes were called.

He promised again that proposals to change the law on the political levy would not be implemented before the next general election. The Government did not wish to upset the balance of our parliamentary democracy or to bankrupt the Labour Party, but to return to truly voluntary contributions of union members to political funds, Mr Tebbit said.

Crash kills four

A woman and three children were killed yesterday in a seven-car crash on the A1 at Datchet, near Belford, south of Berwick.

Science report Volunteers test new leprosy vaccine

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Trials have begun of a new vaccine to be tested on volunteers in Britain, Norway and the United States. However, it is intended for eventual use in the Third World.

The preparation is the result of a remarkable research project to find ways of immunizing people in developing countries against leprosy. The disease afflicts 12 million people, and it is spreading alarmingly, according to World Health Organization specialists, in the poor areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Matters are aggravated by the increase of resistance of the infective organisms to the drugs which have contained the disease for a number of years. Furthermore, about four fifths of the world population live in areas and conditions at risk.

But it may take six to seven years to prove the effectiveness of the vaccine and then come the type of campaign of eradication that was mounted to conquer smallpox.

However, it has been used with dramatic effect on groups of patients with the most serious form of leprosy at an advanced stage in Venezuela.

The illness has been particularly difficult for medical research workers to study because the organisms causing the trouble cannot be grown in the laboratory. An unlikely breakthrough came in the 1970s with the discovery that one of the antibodies of the animal world, the nine-banded armadillo, was susceptible to the disease.

From then on this armoured, platelated terrestrial crustacean has provided a regular supply of the bacillus from which scientists at the National Institute for Medical Research, in London, have produced vaccine. The armadillos have been kept at the Microbiological Research Establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire.

The trials with human volunteers on a preparation made by the Wellcome drug company have begun in Norway. The commercial preparation is made to standards that satisfy the government organizations which regulate the use of drugs.

Volunteers in Britain, Norway and the United States have been chosen because those countries have variations in their immunization programmes on public health. Hence the trials will yield a unique set of data of wider interest than that simply covering the response of individuals to this particular vaccine.

Overseas selling prices
Austria 280 Sch, Belgium 280 0.000, Denmark 280 0.000, France 280 0.000, Germany 280 0.000, Greece 280 0.000, Ireland 280 0.000, Italy 280 0.000, Japan 280 0.000, Korea 280 0.000, Netherlands 280 0.000, Norway 280 0.000, Portugal 280 0.000, Spain 280 0.000, Sweden 280 0.000, Switzerland 280 0.000, Taiwan 280 0.000, Thailand 280 0.000, United Kingdom 280 0.000, United States 280 0.000, Yugoslavia 280 0.000.

Acas seeking negotiated settlement at Halewood

By Our Labour Editor

Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) will today resume their efforts to avert a long and damaging strike at Ford Motors' manufacturing plant at Halewood, Merseyside.

Acas conciliators are to contact Mr Ronald Todd, chief car industry negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, for further exploratory discussions, as the strike by 4,500 assembly workers nears the end of its third week.

If that opens up a prospect of wider talks, Ford management will be asked to give its assessment of a negotiated settlement to the dispute, which has cost 12,000 cars, with a showroom value of about £60m.

Union officials have shown some interest in conciliation, perhaps leading to third-party arbitration over the dismissal of Mr Paul Kelly, aged 25, who was dismissed for allegedly damaging a bracket worth 86p on an Escort car that was being assembled at the plant.

The company has so far refused to put the case to arbitration, pointing out that Mr Kelly can plead unfair dismissal before an industrial tribunal.



Foot pledge takes hunting into party politics

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

By committing the Labour Party at the weekend to abolishing foxhunting and to a wide range of measures affecting the countryside, Mr Michael Foot has brought the environmental debate firmly into the realm of party politics.

The success of the "Greens" in the recent West German elections has apparently convinced Labour, which traditionally draws its strength from the urban areas, that there are many votes to be gained from exploiting issues such as rural conservation and animal welfare.

But the issues are not as clear cut as they might at first appear.

After Mr Foot's speech, at the inaugural meeting in London of the Socialist Countryside Group on Saturday, Mr Ken Storer, the spokesman for a group of Leicester miners, said he would invite his workmates to stop paying their political levy with their union subscriptions. He said he was a lifelong Labour supporter and a keen hunt follower.

The Master of Foxhounds Association said Mr Foot's pledge, which he said was a vote-catching exercise, was a mistake because hunting had never wider support rights across the community.

Country sports, Page 4

Education cash curbs condemned

From Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent
Loughborough

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, was accused yesterday of breaking the spirit of the law by not giving enough money to schools so that all children could be educated according to their age and ability.

That accusation from Dr Peter Andrews, president of the Secondary Heads Association, which represents more than 3,000 head teachers in maintained and independent schools, was part of a detailed attack on Sir Keith's policies at the opening of the association's annual conference today.

Dr Andrews, who is headmaster of Henry Farnham School in Dronfield, Derbyshire, also accused Sir Keith of shifting power in the education service to central government.

Dr Andrews said it was clear that education was under-sourced when one compared maintained schools with independent schools. It was there that the Government was breaking the spirit of the Education Act, 1944. Facilities, playing fields and buildings were far better in the independent sector.

St Paul's School for Girls was raising £1.3m for a computer and engineering centre with the help of influential patronage. "It cannot be right that there is no hope of a parallel provision for girls in the maintained sector."



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Former "Rembrandt" fetches £8,979

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

A little painting on panel of "Diana at the Bath" attributed to the "School of Rembrandt" sold for £13,200 (estimate \$3,000 to \$5,000) or £8,979, to the Babbington Gallery of Toronto at Christie's East in New York on Friday. It was a comedown for a painting that was once a "Rembrandt".

Art historians at the turn of the century attributed the 7in by 7in painting to Rembrandt himself. Its finest hour was its inclusion in a Rembrandt exhibition at the Jeu de Paume in Paris in 1911. It changed hands four times between 1892 and 1936.

However, the painting is closely related to a Rembrandt etching of the same subject. Christie's catalogue quotes Arthur M. Hind's comment in a publication of 1924: "One inclines to regard it as a school picture based on the etching."

and the agreement of Giovanni Arpino, whose Rembrandt was published in 1969. Other recent authors have ignored the painting completely.

While it missed securing the £1m or so that it might have been worth as a Rembrandt, the price the panel fetched was very healthy for a small copy after a Rembrandt etching. By using the terminology "School of", Christie's have indicated their belief that the copy was painted around Rembrandt's own time, by a pupil or follower.

The minor old master sale at Christie's secondary New York saleroom secured a total of £145,506, with 26 per cent unsold. It had attracted several London dealers, looking for bargains in a country where old masters are less appreciated.

Pawsey & Payne paid \$11,000 (estimate \$5,000 to \$7,000) or £7,482, for "The Geography Lesson" attributed to Zoffany, Van Haeften spent \$13,200 (estimate \$4,000 to \$6,000) or £8,979, on a 7th century painting "Portrait of a Gentleman", and Lane Fine Art spent \$6,600 (estimate \$4,000 to \$6,000) or £4,489 on "Diana and Actaeon" painted on copper by Giovanni Battista Naldini, which was sent for sale by the Fort Worth Art Museum.

Christie's held a sale of Art Nouveau and Art Deco in their main Park Avenue auction on Saturday, which fetched a total of £463,583, with 23 per cent unsold.

Tiffany lamps and Chippendale figures supplied most of the high prices but a portrait of "Kizette", a little girl in a long-sleeved pink dress painted in 1928 by Tamara de Lempicka, secured the top price at \$60,500 (estimate \$50,000 to \$80,000) or £41,156.

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Information on these sales on (01) 839 9960/930 8870

Christie's St. James's will be closed from Friday, 1 April to Monday, 4 April and will re-open on Tuesday, 5 April with a sale of English and Continental Glass, English Pottery and 19th Century European Ceramics.

For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington, please contact (01) 581 2231/2679

مركز الامن للاطفال



Scarcity of key labour feared after recession

By Paul Rontledge, Labour Editor

British industry is likely to experience a shortage of skilled workers when the long-awaited economic upturn comes, the Manpower Services Commission says today. Companies are being urged to adopt "best practices" to retain and recruit key staff.

A report, commissioned by the commission, recalls that during the last period of improved economic activity from 1977 to 1980 firms could not find enough time-served craftsmen with the right experience and the right personal characteristics.

"In the subsequent period of economic recession (mid-1980 to mid-1982) there have been few signs of strategic changes in company manpower policies designed to deal with those shortfalls," it says.

"It is our judgment, therefore, that in any future upturn, despite the considerable numbers of redundancies, these labour markets would quickly come up against similar problems. It is difficult to see how any significant upturn in demand of the kind which caused problems of 1978-80 would be worked."

"An unknown proportion have undoubtedly found work elsewhere, perhaps by displacing less-skilled people. An equally unknown proportion will prefer not to return to the industry which shed them, the rest the usual mismatches will proliferate, the report suggests.

The investigators have discovered a "pronounced shift" in the manpower policies of firms. Companies are assuming that such a pool of skilled men with preferred experience and personal experience exists when research suggests that it does not.

Firms have moved from a long-term strategic policy to a short-term tactical policy. "Changed economic circumstances now mean that more firms' current employment levels are being set much closer to actual, immediate production needs."

"They have, so to speak, 'exported' their precautionary stocks to the local labour market. The firms themselves will therefore need to resort to external recruitment more quickly in any upturn. But the skills which were formerly on tap are no longer under control there, and will in any case have atrophied. Some will be deemed unemployable simply because they are unemployed.

The net effect of those policies will be to produce a shortage of key skills, such as electronic maintenance craftsmen, multi-skilled craftsmen and technician-engineers in particular.

Firms will be unable to recruit such people, and ought to think more carefully about their long-term policies, the study argues. The commission suggests a number of "best practice" for adoption by managers and unions alike, such as the introduction of better scales for craftsmen based on service and linked to further training.

"Craftsmen and Draughtsmen, the end of Shortages" (Manpower Services Commission, Moorool, Sheffield S1 4PQ, £1.50).

Tax critics answered by Aitken

By David Hewson

Mr Jonathan Aitken, the new chief executive of TV-am, replied yesterday to complaints that most of the shareholdings in the company holding his family stake in the station are based in the tax haven of the Netherlands Antilles.

In a statement issued by Aitken (English), the family's private company, Mr Aitken said that the shareholding was the result of legitimate international tax planning on the behalf of the late Lord Beaverbrook's Canadian estates and the overseas interests of the Aitken family.

The Netherlands Antilles company holds 98 non-voting shares in Aitken Telecommunications which, in turn, has 16.7 per cent, the largest stake of any investor, in TV-am. Mr Aitken said that Aitken Telecommunications was a British company which would pay full British tax on any profits it made.

Dispute means free Land's End access

From Craig Seton, Lands End

Pedestrians are to have free access to Land's End, in spite of a £1.50 admission charge to be introduced today, until a dispute over an alleged right of way is resolved between Mr David Goldstone, its new owner, and the district council.

Mr Goldstone, a London millionaire, paid £2.25m for Britain's most famous headland more than a year ago and has since invested another £1m in improvements, including two new exhibition centres. He announced his concession yesterday.

The new Land's End was officially opened last week, and visitors were to have been charged £1.50 each from today. But last Wednesday Penwith District Council surprised Mr Goldstone by announcing that its officer had been authorized to take whatever legal action was necessary to protect an alleged right of way across Mr Goldstone's property, from the end of the A30 to the coastal path at Land's End.

Mr Goldstone told *The Times* yesterday that title deeds and inquiries raised with both the council and Cornwall County Council "did not disclose the existence of any right of way. But his solicitor would meet the distinct council's solicitor to assess the evidence it purported to have."

"Pending such a meeting, we have been requested by our solicitors to permit pedestrians access, and we have agreed to do so, as it remains our intention to respect all proven existing rights of way, and we have no wish to exacerbate the matter," Mr Goldstone said.

Spending and saving gains for exiles

By Nicholas Cole

British expatriates enjoy considerably higher spending and saving power abroad than they would if employed at home, according to a survey of Britons working overseas.

Forty-three per cent of those questioned are regularly saving or investing more than £500 a month, and just under a quarter of them have assets worth more than £30,000. They spend generously on duty-free goods, including watches, cameras, high fidelity and video equipment.

The survey of incomes and buying habits was conducted among 550 members of Expats International, an independent London-based service organization with about 4,000 English-speaking subscribers worldwide. More than half the respondents work in Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East, while the remainder are mainly in Africa.

A picture emerges of the average expatriate as a married man in a permanent position, and planning to stay overseas for no more than three years. Thirty-six per cent earn £10,000 to £15,000 a year, 35 per cent £15,000 to £20,000 a year, and 20 per cent £20,000 to £30,000. Only three per cent earn over £30,000 a year.

Their disposable incomes, or the amount they have available for spending after meeting commitments, is generally higher than it would be in Britain because of lower taxation and benefits including free accommodation, food and travel.

Competition for positions offering such advantages is intensifying. Jobs overseas are becoming scarcer because of falling oil revenues and the consequent squeeze on national economies.

Expats International reports a steady return flow of British staff who have fallen victim to cost-cutting by their employers overseas.

The survey reveals a 17 per cent unemployment rate among expatriate Britons.

Job therapy defended

Probation at £87 a week

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Steve had the look of an old lag. He rolled his cigarettes thinly, wore ear-rings and had tattooed L-O-V-E on the fingers of his left hand and H-A-T-E on his right as a tribal mark of recognition among those who have been inside. He had done his time for burglary and been mixed up in violence over drugs.

Mr James Todd, the south Yorkshire probation officer in charge of the scheme employing him, yesterday defended the payment of £87 a week wages by the Manpower Services Commission to offenders such as Steve, compared with the £36 to £40 Mr Todd says is available for unemployed single people on the dole.

A new commission scheme to provide wages of up to £60 for 10,000 offenders nationally was announced. After an outcry over alleged favouritism being shown to criminals compared with honest people who cannot get a job.

But Mr Todd told *The Times*: "We are showing that offenders are ready and willing to work within the law, given a chance."

Another offender employed by the probation service said that on his £88.22 a week commission wage, he was able to get married, help to furnish a house, had a holiday in Great Yarmouth last year and was spending his £300 savings on a honeymoon in Majorca.

Probation officers argue that paying offenders wages taught them the work habit, sometimes split matches in half to save money as people in prison do. But having come to the end of the year limit on commission wages, he is back on the dole. A luckier half dozen have graduated to administrative or more senior supervisory jobs with salaries of up to £6,500 paid by the probation service.

While in Lancaster prison on a three-year sentence Steve did a course on applied social studies run by Lancaster University. In Sheffield, he taught social skills on a probation scheme. His pupils learnt how to shop around for bargains, read electricity meters and else out money to pay bills.

Other offenders were paid wages by the commission to supervise gardening and decorating given free by probation-run teams at homes of delighted disabled people or pensioners. A third group under supervision repairs toys for children in play groups and hospitals.



Mr Harry Hanwell, an instructor, watching a former offender working on his matchstick models. (Photograph: Neville Pyne)

chief probation officer, said: "In my experience employment is the best therapy we have ever had."

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Police raided home of blind woman in error

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Police officers left a blind garden fences like a pack of pensioner trembling with fear. There were two after they raided her home by mistake, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Eva Firmin, aged 66, a great-grandmother, of Westfield Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire, said: "The sitting room door flew open and someone ran in and shouted: 'Have you had a break-in?'"

"Luckily my friend was with me. I am sure had I been alone I would have had a heart attack. When my friend said it was a policeman I thought my husband Billy had been in an accident."

"It would not have been so bad had they come back and explained what happened."

Mrs Firmin's friend, Mrs Edith Abram, aged 66, of Cherry Tree Avenue, Runcorn, said: "Police were jumping over

Triffid-like hogweed on the increase

By John Young,
Agriculture Correspondent

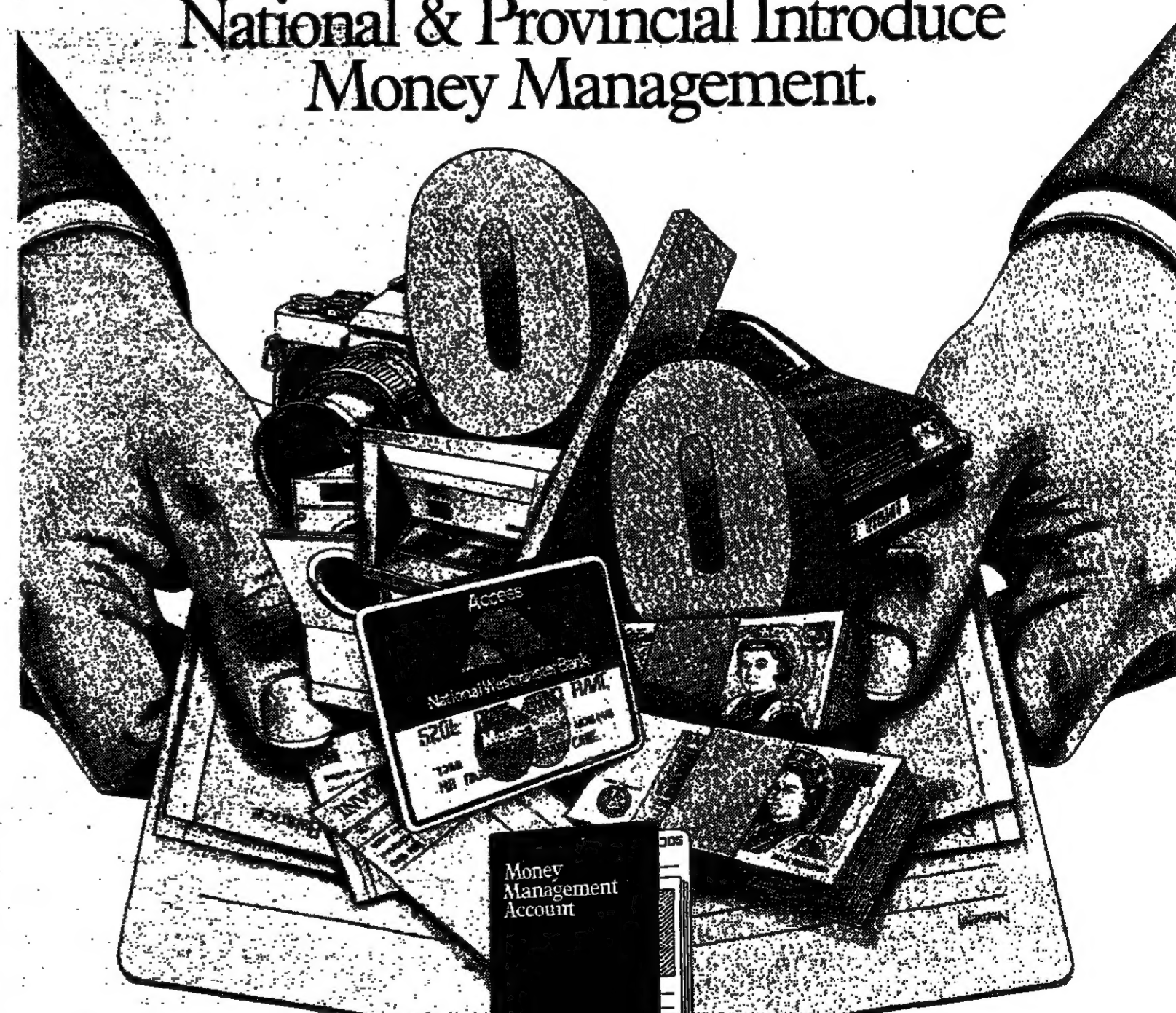
Giant Hogweed, which bears an alarming resemblance to the fictional Triffid, is spreading faster than ever, according to the North of Scotland College of Agriculture.

The plant, which grows up to four metres high, with leaves more than a metre wide, was brought from the Caucasus as a garden ornament at the end of the last century. When handled, its bristles release large quantities of sap which make the skin highly sensitive to light and can cause anything from a mild rash to painful blisters.

Each plant produces about 5,000 seeds, which over the years have colonized riverbanks and road and railway embankments.

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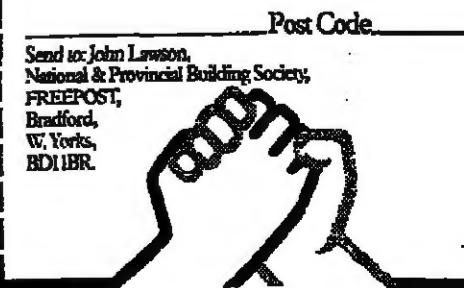
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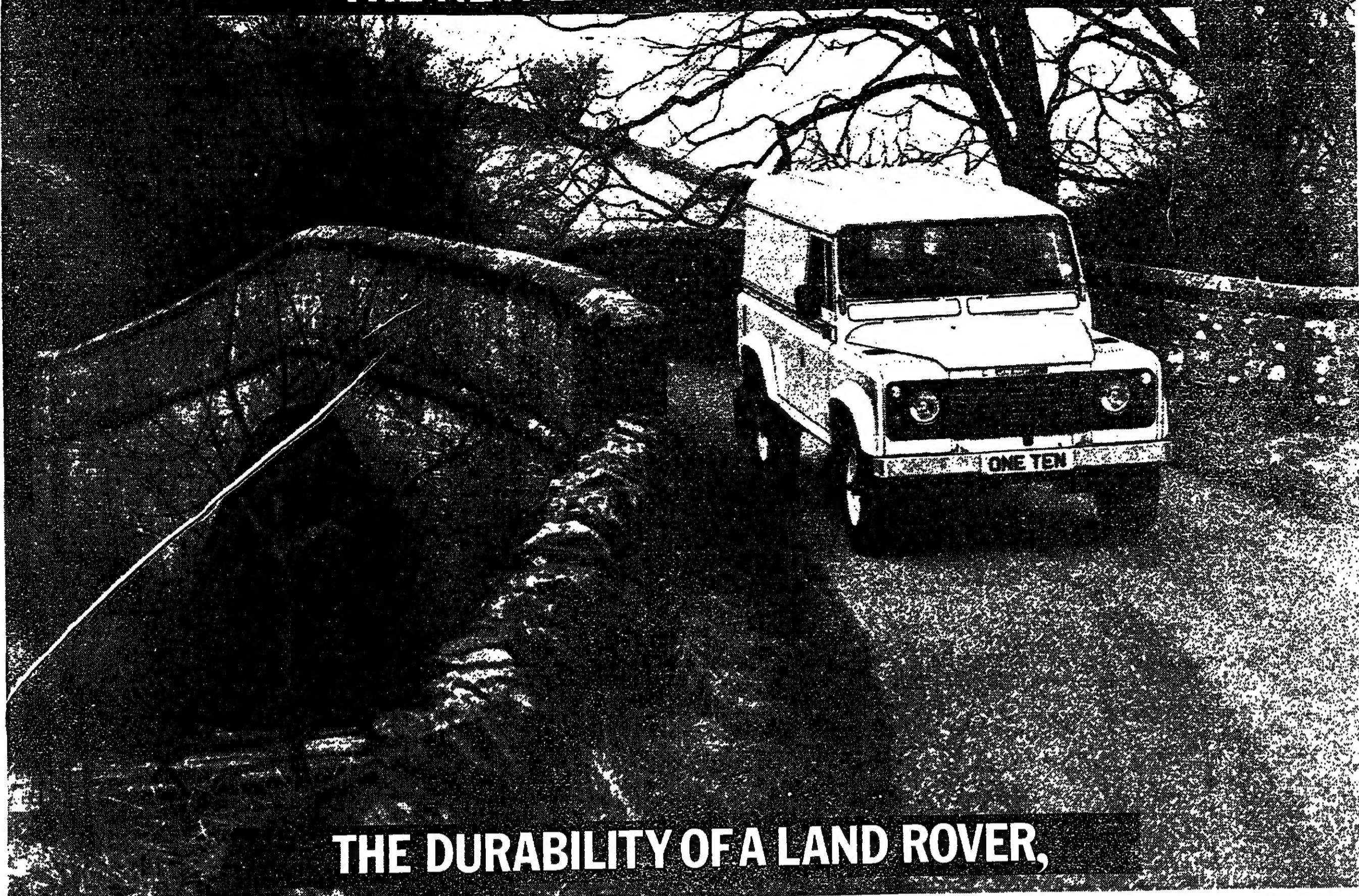
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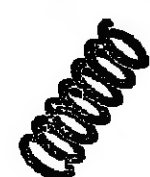
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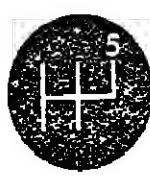
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Andropov determined to assert his authority but the intrigues persist

From Richard Owen, Moscow

An important meeting of the Central Committee is expected to take place in Moscow, shortly, amid growing signs that Mr Yuri Andropov is determined to show that his authority in the Kremlin is unimpaired.

Informal sources said the meeting would decide policy and personnel changes. It will be the first party plenum since November, when Mr Andropov made his first policy statement as leader.

Some say that nearly five months after taking over, Mr Andropov is keen to demonstrate that although he is 68 and not in the best of health, he is not necessarily a caretaker leader, as some senior party members have begun to suggest privately. The subterranean shifts of post-Brezhnev policies are beginning to surface, and will crystallize around the Central Committee meeting, which sources said would take place in April.

Twice last week political rumours flared up and were doused by the Kremlin, only to flare up again. Some were based on a hasty misreading of the signals. Others, including reports of Mr Andropov's poor health, have been confirmed. Senior Soviet officials told correspondents that the Soviet leader had had "influenza" earlier this month, but other sources report that he suffered from a kidney ailment.

Yesterday Mr Andropov published an interview in *Pravda* rejecting President Reagan's proposals for an anti-ballistic missile defence system. This followed the release on Friday of a photograph of a meeting between Mr Andropov and Senator Daniel Ortega, the Nicaraguan leader, in which the date was deliberately shown on a desk calendar.

These attempts to show that Mr Andropov remains firmly in charge of the Kremlin's affairs are being accompanied by what appear to be the faint beginnings of an Andropov personality cult. Mr Andropov has so far largely kept out of the limelight, but his portrait has begun to appear in public, together with quotations from his speeches on giant red placards on some Moscow streets.

Rumours and intrigues persist, including one report (since discounted) that a woman tried to assassinate Mr Andropov in his private office. "What is significant is that someone somewhere is putting the rumours about," commented one senior Western diplomat. Some of those now manoeuvring for power in the post-Brezhnev era are wondering whether to link their political fortunes irrevocably to a man who walks with a stoop and sometimes appears gaunt.

Mr Andropov, however, has the loyalty of the KGB and the armed forces, and controls the Politburo through an inner circle of close supporters. These include Mr Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, who (for the

time being at least) combines the post with that of First Deputy Prime Minister.

Other ministerial and party positions may also change hands. There is a question mark over the future of Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, who returned unflustered from a trip to Belgium on Friday, but is a relic of the Brezhnev era. Soviet television showed his return by concentrated on the welcoming party, including Mr Gromyko.

Other figures on the drama include Mr Geidar Aliyev, who has made enemies as Deputy Prime Minister since November. General Fedorchuk, the KGB chief, who is spearheading a campaign against corruption, and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, Mr Andropov's defeated rival for the leadership who has recently reemerged into the limelight after a period of obscurity.

Among the vital issues at stake are the future of the economy, arms spending, and ideology, a subject on which Mr Chernenko recently chaired a meeting of Soviet block officials in Moscow.

UN chief arrives: Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks with Mr Andropov which are expected to focus on Afghanistan. AP reports Mr Gromyko and other Soviet officials welcomed him.

Trade surplus: The Soviet Union has published figures showing its greatly increased trade surplus with the Third World in 1982 resulted from an all-round cut in imports and a greater concentration of trade with political allies. Reuter reports. There was an increase in imports from Japan by more than 30 per cent, to a total of 2.9 billion roubles (£2,400m).



Mr Tikhonov: Unflustered

Reagan 'treading dangerous path'

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Yuri Andropov yesterday firmly dismissed President Reagan's proposal for a more defensive American nuclear strategy based on anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs) as unrealistic and extremely dangerous.

Mr Andropov's remarks took the form of an interview in *Pravda* which rebutted point by point Mr Reagan's speech last Wednesday proposing research and development of ABM systems on Earth and in outer space. Observers said the *Pravda* interview was partly intended to show that Mr Andropov remained in personal command of Kremlin policy.

Mr Andropov said that although Mr Reagan's proposals for a more defensive strategy might seem attractive to the layman, they did not appear so to "those who are conversant with these matters". In fact, American strategic nuclear

forces would still be developed and upgraded "at full tilt" in order to acquire a first nuclear strike capability.

Washington wanted to use ABM defences to destroy "the corresponding strategic systems of the other side". This would deprive the Soviet Union of the ability to deal a retaliatory blow, and would therefore "disarm the Soviet Union in the face of the American nuclear threat".

Mr Reagan's new concept would, if implemented, "open the floodgates to a runaway race involving all kinds of strategic weapons, both offensive and defensive", Mr Andropov said.

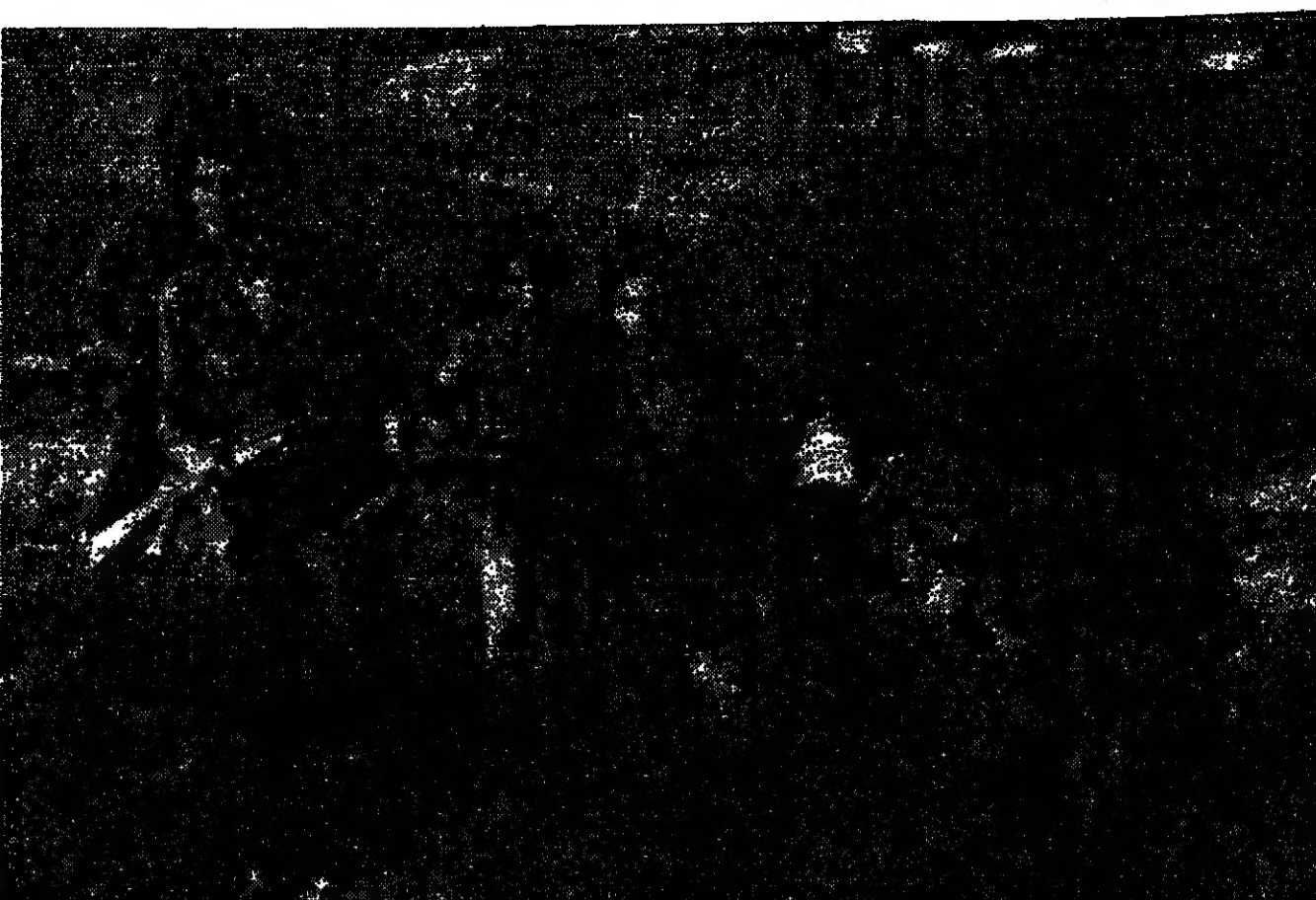
Mr Andropov repeated charges by Tass last week that development of American ABMs would violate the arms control treaty of 1972. Both sides had recognized that "only mutual restraint in the field of

ABM defences will permit progress in limiting and reducing strategic systems". The Reagan administration was treading an extremely dangerous path, and was treating the issue of war and peace flippantly.

Mr Andropov warned Mr Reagan that there should be no mistake in Washington about Russia's determination to prevent any American attempt to "gain military superiority over the Soviet Union".

"We will never be caught defenceless," the Soviet leader said. "It is time the Americans stopped devising one option after another in the hope of finding the best way of launching nuclear war and winning it." Mr Andropov told *Pravda*. "This is not just irresponsible, it is insane."

Letters, page 11



French doctor killed in Nicaragua

Countering the "contras": Nicaraguan Army reservists on patrol duty against right-wing guerrillas (known as "contras"). As the rural sweeps continued a French doctor was killed in crossfire during a clash 180 miles north-east of Managua in the central mountainous region, Señor Tomás Borge, Interior Minister said, Reuter reports. Four soldiers were killed and 17 civilians wounded in the fighting the minister added.

Señor Borge identified the Frenchman as Pierre Grosjean, and said he was in the area under a French Government aid programme to conduct research into mountain leprosy.

The clashes occurred just outside Matagalpa province, the scene of heavy fighting in the past month between troops and a 2,000-man force of "contras".

● SAN SALVADOR: Two American journalists were arrested here yesterday.

day police said their possible links with Salvadoran guerrilla groups were being investigated.

Miss Joan Ambrose Newton and Mr T J Western were picked up at Mr Western's home by plainclothes Treasury police, an American Embassy spokesman said. Miss Newton works part-time for the BBC, and Mr Western, who is 32, and comes from St Paul, Minnesota, for Associated Press Radio.

Basques kidnap King's friend

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A Spanish aristocrat and close friend of King Juan Carlos has been kidnapped. The ETA Basque terrorist organization claimed responsibility.

Yesterday the family of Señor Diego Prado y Colan de Carvajal said they were waiting for word from the ETA. Señor Prado was snatched from his Madrid home on Friday.

"It seems that the motive is economic and not political," Señor Manuel Prado, his brother, said.

Police said they were first informed of the kidnapping by a call from the Zarzuela Palace, the royal residence. King Juan Carlos arrived yesterday in Palma, Majorca, to begin the royal family's Easter holiday break.

On Saturday, in a telephone call to a Bilbao radio station, a spokesman for ETA's military wing claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, saying that Señor Prado, aged 53, had been seized because he belonged to the "Spanish oligarchy" and because of his relations "and

those of his family with the Spanish royal house".

If it is confirmed that ETA is responsible, it will be the first big foray in Madrid by the Basque organization since last year.

Señor Manuel Prado said ETA involvement could not be ruled out - the kidnapping had intended to seize him and not his brother, who was he added, "a man without means". Señor Manuel Prado is a former head of Iberia, the state airline, and a former senior government official.

Four young men pretending to be policemen and showing fake passes, using a technique similar to that of an ETA gang which last year blew up a Madrid telephone exchange, seized Señor Prado in the garage of his Madrid flat.

"Two of them stayed behind after the kidnapping for about three-quarters of an hour, intimidating the porter. According to police, this gave the other two time to take their victim out of Madrid."

On their mother's side the Prado brothers are descended from Christopher Columbus.

Señor Diego Prado was a former chairman of the Madrid Banco Descuento which in November, 1981, was taken over by the banks' deposits guarantee fund.

In March last year he and three other officers of the bank were detained by the police fraud squad after charges had been made, following auditing by the guarantee fund, that the bank had over-valued property in a business deal. All were subsequently freed and the charges dropped.

Señor Prado was the second businessman to be kidnapped in less than a week. On Saturday the family of Señor Jesus Guibert, a 55-year-old Basque factory owner, who was seized by the Anti-capitalist Autonomous Commandos, an organization close to ETA, received a letter saying he was well and urging them to speed up "negotiations". This was taken as a reference to ransom money.

US delays Egypt butter sale

Cairo (Reuters) - The United States will delay subsidized farm export deals, such as the recent sale of wheat flour to Egypt, to avoid antagonizing the European Community. Mr John Block, the US Agriculture Secretary, said yesterday.

"We did not come here to antagonize. That's one reason we're not charging ahead with a subsidized dairy deal for Egypt", he said.

Mr Block, who is in Cairo during a 10-day visit to north Africa and the Middle East, has been under pressure at home to fight the Europeans by dumping American dairy products on world markets.

But, according to a US Department of Agriculture briefing paper, the Egyptian Government believes that the US is merely using the threat of a dairy sale to put pressure on Europe to end export subsidies, and does not intend to conclude the deal.

Political and military tensions

Greece bedevilled by doubt and division

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The cartoon in the pro-Athens government newspaper on Independence Day portrayed a Greek soldier in the turret of an army tank using a loud-speaker: "Now hear this," said the bubble. "We are not staging a readiness exercise, not a coup, nor a putsch. We are just on our way to the parade."

It was not funny - at least not in a country where, after 17 months of Socialist government, one-half of the population seems to fear a military takeover, the other half a Marxist one-party state.

The mood of apprehension is almost palpable, more so in recent weeks after the Government suddenly mobilized left wing party stalwarts in an exercise to thwart a mock coup d'état, and after an unknown assailant killed Mr George Athanassiadis, the prominent conservative newspaper publisher.

Greek conservatives are hardly the kind of folk that surge into the streets to protest or demonstrate, even if some very cherished principles are at stake. Usually they keep to themselves, hoping for the best and drowning their sorrows in scotch and soda.

When nearly 100,000 of them, men and women, suddenly turn up at a murdered journalist's funeral in Athens, they are there for five hours, then something must have gone drastically wrong.

What may have triggered the

manifestation could have been the brazen way in which the state-controlled television took pains to hush up the possibility of a political motive to the killing, to the point of making imputations on the victim's character, and firing his news editor for transmitting the Opposition's comments calling it a political assassination.

Last week's outburst, however, was clearly an accumulation of grievances. Greek conservatives, but also many Government supporters, now fear that the Socialist Government, after a year and half in power, managed to solve none of the major internal or external problems, certainly added new ones, and has sown the seeds of discord through its systematic effort to gain exclusive control of the country's nerve centres.

Mass dismissals and transfers of anyone in the state machine who is not "one of us", have not only unhinged the administration visibly, but have created a class of resentful dispossessed. The newcomers are, themselves, trying to offset their own "guilt" by complaining that tax incentives to industrialists and the pay-freeze to the workers is not what they had bargained for.

Greece's international position remains in doubt. Party faithful complain that platform pledges to quit Nato and oust the foreign bases have been broken, while the Opposition warns that Greece's alienation from the West is playing into

the hands of Turkey which all Greeks regard as a security threat.

The prospect that the Government may collapse under the onus of its own contradictions has fanned speculation that there would be trouble whether it is overthrown or if it tries to hold on to power.

At this juncture, individual Greeks turn to President Karamanlis with an uncanny confidence that he will get them out of the mess as he did before. But Mr Karamanlis is a very concerned man himself, fearing as he does a resurgence of the discord that bedevilled Greek politics between 1925 and 1974.

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President Karamanlis clearly wants to avoid a confrontation with the Prime Minister, but there are limits - such as the risk of irreversible damage to Greece's links with the West or the ability of democracy to function properly in Greece.

The President is unlikely to repeat the mistakes of the 1960s which he watched from his self-exile in Paris. The Government's wear and tear is substantial but decisive.

the party's left for "socialization" of the economy in the long-run, while the "green guards" complain that tax incentives to industrialists and the pay-freeze to the workers is not what they had bargained for.

Greece's international position remains in doubt. Party faithful complain that platform pledges to quit Nato and oust the foreign bases have been broken, while the Opposition warns that Greece's alienation from the West is playing into

the hands of Turkey which all Greeks regard as a security threat. The prospect that the Government may collapse under the onus of its own contradictions has fanned speculation that there would be trouble whether it is overthrown or if it tries to hold on to power.

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Bahrain at risk from big oil slick

Bahrain (Reuters) - A huge oil slick drifting south from two damaged Iranian oil wells is now about 60 miles north of Bahrain and is likely to hit part of the island's north coast in two weeks, Gulf environment officials said.

The slick is drifting at a speed of six miles a day. It is estimated to contain 100,000 barrels of oil spread over an area of about 14 square miles and the wells are still gushing out some 5,000 barrels a day.

The two wells' one hit by a ship last month and the other reportedly damaged by an Iraqi attack on March 2, are in the Nowruz area, of Iran's main oil export terminals on Kharg Island. Gulf governments fear fishing grounds may be ruined and desalination plants which supply drinking water could be put at risk.

Argentina jails critical colonel

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - A retired army colonel has been sentenced to 45 days detention for criticizing Argentina's military rulers, the independent agency Noticias Argentinas reported.

It quoted relatives as saying that Colonel Juan Jaime Cesio began serving his sentence yesterday at a tank regiment's base at Magdalena, 40 miles south of here. In an interview with the satirical magazine *Humor*, he was quoted as saying of former President Galtieri: "Galtieri went to the United States before he became president but turned out to be a poor pupil."

The exploding Easter eggs

Lerouville, France (AP) - A woman trying to prepare Easter eggs upset her neighbours by putting a pot on the stove to boil, forgetting about it and going to bed.

When the boiling water evaporated, the eggs shattered, causing a series of small detonations. Thinking their village was being attacked, her neighbours armed themselves with guns and sticks until police arrived.

Ecevit visa

Ankara (Reuters) - Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, said he has been given permission by martial law authorities to attend a Socialist International congress in Portugal next month. He has been jailed three times since the 1980 coup for criticizing the military Government.

Royal holiday

Sydney (Reuters) - The Prince and Princess of Wales spent a quiet Sunday with nine-month-old Prince William at the end of their first week touring Australia. Prince William has been staying with his two nannies in a country retreat at Woomargama, lent by an Australian businessman.

Love on wheels

Aarau, Switzerland (Reuters) - A trailer bearing drawings of a reclining pair of lovers has been banned here as a distraction to traffic. On one side lay a woman with the inscription "Anita is thinking of Albert". On the other was a man with the words "Albert is thinking of Anita."

Peace gesture

Bogota (Reuters) - Colombia's largest left-wing guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, issued a list of 56 kidnapped people they are holding and said all would be freed soon. The move is seen as a step towards peace talks with the government of President Betancur.

Summit of left

Paris - The heads of Socialist governments in Europe are to meet in Paris on May 18 at the invitation of President Mitterrand to work out a common socialist response to world economic problems.

Goodwill visit

Peking (AFP) - Mr Thomas ("Tip") O'Neill, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, arrived here with a 45-member delegation for an eight-day friendship visit.

Pym for Gulf

Abu Dhabi (Reuters) - Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will pay an official three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates starting on April 4.

Dancer defects

Malmö (AP) - An unnamed Estonian ballet dancer on tour in Sweden left his troupe on Saturday and requested political asylum.

Snow in summer

Zurich (Reuters) - On the day that Europe changed to summer time, snowstorms caused chaos on the Gotthard motorway through the Swiss Alps as thousands headed south for an early Easter holiday. Traffic was halted as scores of cars became stuck on snow-covered uphill stretches.

We will win one day, Walesa says

Gdansk (AP, Reuters) - Mr Lech Walesa yesterday told cheering Solidarity supporters that "the time will come when we will win."

Mr Walesa, who has recently sought to regain some of the prominence he commanded during the 16 months he led Solidarity, vowed to be present when the union's activists go on trial.

He was taking part with about 2,000 people, including many former Solidarity members, in the traditional Palm Sunday Mass at St Brigid's Roman Catholic church, near the Lenin shipyard, where Solidarity emerged in August 1980.

German nuclear plea to American bishops

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As West Germans examine with scarcely veiled scepticism and bewilderment President Reagan's latest proposal for a laser beam defence strategy, two leading Roman Catholic politicians have appealed to American Catholic bishops not to publish a pastoral letter whose conclusions they say would make nuclear war more likely.

Dr Georg Leber, a former Social Democratic Defence Minister, and Dr Alois Mertes, the Christian Democratic state secretary in the Foreign Ministry, published a toughly worded open letter over the weekend to the national bishops' conference urging them to rethink their radical proposals for a nuclear freeze and for a unilateral American renunciation of the option of the first use of nuclear weapons.

The two men, leading figures in the German Catholic Central Committee, said many people in Europe shared the great anxiety over the second draft of the pastoral letter, which they said fanned the flames of Soviet propaganda and endangered peace by encouraging the Russians to attempt nuclear blackmail of Western Europe.

A pastoral letter from the American bishops, the political conclusions of which result in war and subjugation in Europe becoming more likely, presents

a challenge to our Christian conscience," the two influential politicians said.

The letter will be music to the ears of Germany's conservatives, who have been worried by the influence of pacifist thinking in the Roman Catholic evangelical churches in this country.

The letter was published as other senior politicians have been expressing palpable unease over the new Reagan strategy, which has been compared here to a "Star Wars" philosophy.

Both Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, and Herr Egon Bahr, the SDP defence spokesman, have praised the emphasis on defensive rather than retaliatory strategy.

The Germans, like other Western allies, were taken by surprise by President Reagan's speech. They are worried that the new plans will distract the President from making new proposals in the Geneva medium-range missiles talks, which Bonn sees as far more pressing. A government spokesman characterized the laser-beam defence strategy as "music of the future".

Meanwhile Young Socialists, meeting over the weekend in the Ruhr for a German media withdrawal from Nato, which they said had become a powder keg.

Vanuatu editor deported and paper closed

Brisbane (Reuters) - Miss Christine Coombe, a British journalist, arrived in Brisbane yesterday after being deported from the South Pacific Island of Vanuatu, where she ran the only independent newspaper.

Miss Coombe, director of the weekly *Voice of Vanuatu*, said the only reason given for her expulsion was that she was an undesirable person, but added that it followed reports in her newspaper of an apparent power struggle in the Government of Mr Walter Lini, the Prime Minister. Vanuatu authorities have not commented on her expulsion. On March 12 she was given 14 days to leave.

Arafat makes surprise visit to Riyadh

Bahrain (Reuters) - Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, on his way to Jordan to meet King Hussein, called unexpectedly in Riyadh yesterday for talks with Saudi leaders.

Mr Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was travelling to Amman to discuss US efforts to induce King Hussein to enter into negotiations with Israel on the basis of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

Saudi Arabia is the PLO's biggest financial backer, and King Hussein was believed to be seeking Saudi approval, as well as that of Mr Arafat, before taking a decision on the American proposals.

The Saudis have been non-committal on the Reagan plan, which envisages Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and

Gaza. In association with Jordan.

Like King Hussein and Mr Arafat, East peace efforts to be based on an Arab plan drawn up by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and approved by an Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, last September.

The Arab plan proposes an independent Palestinian state. However, King Hussein, Mr Arafat and the Saudis have avoided rejecting Mr Reagan's proposal.

DAMASCUS: Eight Israeli soldiers held by the PLO have been moved from eastern Lebanon to another, unnamed Arab country because Israel was planning a military operation to free them, an official Palestinian source said yesterday, Reuter reports.

The eight Israelis were captured in central Lebanon last September. Efforts to exchange them for thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese held by Israel in southern Lebanon and in Israeli jails are being conducted through Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, and the International Red Cross.

CAIRO: In a statement on the fourth anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty with Israel on Saturday, Dr Butros Butros-Ghali, the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, described Israeli policies as "a threat to the peace process in the Middle East," Robert Holloway writes.

The minister's remarks, in an interview with the newspaper *Al-Ahbar*, was the sole official acknowledgement

Chinese flower power on view for TUC

From David Bonavia, Hongkong

Urging people to work harder, and sponsoring such hobbies as painting flowers and collecting stamps, are among the activities of the Chinese trade unions which will this week receive a delegation of British unions headed by Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

The Chinese unions were revived several years ago after being virtually abolished during the 10 years of the Cultural Revolution. The late Mao Tse-tung and his ruling group considered them to be bourgeois and revisionist.

The unions take responsibility for widows, orphans, childless people, the sick and

the disabled, for whom there are no automatic benefits provided by the Government. They also concern themselves with problems of workers, housing, love and marriage and provision of clothing.

PEKING: China yesterday revived the Taiwan issue by criticizing President Reagan for saying that the US would not "discard its old friend Taiwan" while at the same time saying that the issue was an "internal Chinese matter", AFP reports.

The official New China News Agency, in a story from Washington, said that Mr Reagan's worn-out theme "runs counter to US commitments to respect China's sovereignty."

هنا من الأمل

Aid to Ethiopia still getting through, relief agencies say

By Richard Dowling

Aid is still getting through to drought victims in Ethiopia, relief agency workers said yesterday. An Ethiopian spokesman also denied reports that food is being used to feed the Ethiopian Army or diverted to the Soviet Union to pay for arms.

"We have nothing to send to the Soviet Union," Mr. Wuhib Muluneh, a spokesman from the Ethiopian Government said in London. "We are trying to distribute what we can to the three million drought victims. Whatever aid comes to us will not be diverted into any areas except those needing assistance."

An unnamed Ethiopian official who is seeking asylum in Britain claimed in a report in *The Sunday Times* that grain shipped by EEC countries to Assab, on the Red Sea, was being re-exported to the Soviet Union. The report also claimed that food aid from the EEC and the United Nations World Food Programme was recently found in Ethiopian Army Camps.

Mr. Wilfred Agnes, the Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia, said that these reports had been bandied around for some time, and that his staff had kept a close eye on the ports and would know if it had happened.

Aid workers who have recently returned from Ethiopia agree that the Ethiopian Government is taking the drought seriously and that its Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which distributes the food, is a credible organization.

However, Mr. Paul Renshaw, of Christian Aid, who has recently returned from Ethiopia, said it would be naive to imagine it was free from political influence, though he had no evidence of aid going seriously astray.

A spokesman for the Overseas Development Administration in London, which recently gave £250,000 aid to Ethiopia, in addition to £100,000 already pledged, said that these new allegations would have to be followed up.

He said that the British Ambassador and staff from other EEC countries in Ethiopia had travelled extensively in the country and had found no evidence to support earlier allegations that food aid was being misused.

But the idea that food goes directly from the donors to the mouths of the drought victims is far from the truth. A spokesman for the EEC in Brussels yesterday said that the 80,000 tonnes of wheat sent by the EEC to Ethiopia as this year's contribution was sold on the open market in Addis Ababa with the consent of the EEC.

The money raised was used to buy locally grown maize to feed the hungry. In this way, the EEC spokesman said, Ethiopian agriculture is helped and people in rural areas receive the food they are used to rather than imported wheat. It also cuts the cost of transporting the food across Ethiopia's mountainous terrain.

Letters, page 11



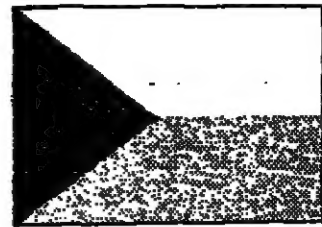
Earthquake survivor: An Iranian woman standing among the rubble after tremors devastated a string of villages 50 miles north of Tehran on Friday and Saturday. At least 30 people died and more than 100 were injured. Many of the dead were motorists caught in a landslide.

The communist dilemma

Prague haunted by the Dubcek era

Czechoslovakia, put "under arrest" after the heady days of Dubcek rule in 1968, is now on parole. ROGER BOYES writes from Prague. In this first article of a three-part series he describes the Communist authorities' dilemma in having to accept fundamental changes in society to pursue the economic reforms they desire.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Part 1: Economy

In the Prague taverns once frequented by the good soldier Schweik, Czechoslovakia's patron saint of passive resistance, there is a cartoon showing the crumpled First World War private. "I've had five pints of beer, a couple of sausages and a roll," he is saying. "I'll just have a plum brandy and then I must really be going, because I'm under arrest."

In a sense Czechoslovakia was put "under arrest" when it was invaded by its fellow Warsaw Pact members in 1968. Now, after 15 years of "normalization", it is out on parole, rewarded for good behaviour.

Good behaviour, as measured by the Brezhnev code of etiquette, means excluding the factor of surprise from political life: no more rude shocks from Prague. In policy terms this has been converted into steady, unspectacular economic growth until the economy began to falter in 1980 only slight changes to the leadership installed after the fall of Mr. Alexander Dubcek, the isolation of dissident intellectuals from workers and, above all, regular grants of loyalty in the direction of Moscow.

By its own limited yardstick.

the normalization programme worked: the dissidents have been denied mass support, the Dubcek-reformers have been thrown out of the party or have left of their own accord; and there is as much controversy in the plenary sessions of the Central Committee as at a maiden aunt's tea party.

But normalization has also eroded the system's ability to respond effectively to change. As a result the Czechoslovak Government now faces three challenges, essentially in its economy but by extension in its political machinery.

First, by renouncing market levers after 1968 - as part of the general campaign to exorcise Mr. Dubcek - the Government has encouraged a false sense of immunity from world developments. Secondly, the Prague planners over-extended themselves, investing too much in too many projects. The result has been some 30,000 unfinished projects and a neglect of new technology. Finally, the Government failed to respond

to the explosion in oil and raw material prices.

All of this has sunk home now and the Czechoslovak Government is wondering how to change course without making it seem as if they are embracing Mr. Dubcek's policies of liberalizing the economy. Nuclear policy is being emphasized in the almost certainly unrealistic hope of giving atomic power a 30 per cent share in the country's energy supply by 1990.

Investment policy is now being concentrated on a few rather than a broad range of industries. A slight liberalization, dubbed "the set of measures", has been introduced to give managers more power.

But Czechoslovakia knows that it faces a stark choice if it is to secure the long-term prosperity of the economy. It can borrow money from the West to modernize its heavy industry - but it is reluctant to do so. The example of Poland is a warning beacon.

It can forget its growth targets, revise them downwards and tell the people to tighten their belts - but this offers little in the way of a solution. Or it can reform on a broader scale - giving factories the right to deal independently with the West and secure their own export markets, give farmers more a say in the running of agriculture and encourage private enterprise.

Timidity is the watchword - the hard currency debt is an official secret, corruption scandals rarely reach the newspapers and become part of the mouth-

to-mouth news system. But reform means to admit error. And, as the party leadership has been in power for so long, there seems no way of avoiding the buck. In Poland, Mr. Edward Giersek, the disgraced party leader, has been given the blame, but in Prague nobody has been disgraced for quite a while.

This naturally leads Western diplomats and informed Czechoslovak intellectuals to speculate about future changes in the leadership. The current scenario is that Mr. Milos Jakes, a



Dr. Husak: His successor is being groomed.

Pracsidium member and an economic expert, is being groomed to succeed Dr. Gustav Husak as party leader.

At least three men in the Pracsidium are in shaky chairs - either because of ill health or because they have lost influence - and could be replaced by people more wedded to the idea of reform, thus breaking the current deadlock between the relatively dogmatic and the relatively pragmatic leaders.

Next: Dissidents

UK queries Harare ban on reporter

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Office officials are investigating the action taken by Zimbabwe police against Mr. David Blundy, a special correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, who arrived in the country a week ago.

Mr. Blundy, whose report "Zimbabwe Bleeds Again" was published in yesterday's paper, had his passport, notebooks, camera and personal papers seized during a raid on his hotel room.

Police told him they were operating under the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, which apparently does not require them to produce a search warrant.

Mr. Blundy is unable to leave the country but is free to move around Harare. The Foreign Office said in London that he had been visited by Mr. R. P. Ralph, the head of Chancery in the British High Commission. Mr. Blundy was suffering from chickenpox and was comfortable.

The Foreign Office said the High Commission had been told to make inquiries, "as a matter of urgency", with the Zimbabwe authorities.

HARARE: Zimbabwe's Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace stated its "grave concern" about human rights in south-western Metabeland, AFP reports.

"It is clear from evidence... that human rights in the affected areas are being severely violated and that men, women and children are being killed and injured without just cause", the commission said after its annual meeting on Saturday.

Frontline states seek support

From Susan MacDonald
Lisbon

Ministers from the six African frontline states, meeting in Lisbon over the weekend, accused South Africa of deliberate attempts to destabilize its black-ruled neighbours and the West of giving support to the apartheid regime which further endangered a worsening situation.

Mr. Frederick Shava, the Zimbabwe Minister for Planning and Development, said that South Africa continued to support groups sowing the seeds of dissent in the frontline countries, attacking and kidnapping civilians and blowing up installations.

He also accused Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader now in London, of thinking first of fleeing to South Africa at the first suspicion that his life was in danger, a charge which Mr. Nkomo has previously ridiculed.

The meeting decided to build up the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, whose members recently met in Botswana, as an alternative to trading with South Africa.

The meeting, which was attended by ministers from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, was designed to focus the attention of the West on the southern African situation. It was also attended by Mr. Sam Nujoma, leader of Swapo, the Namibian resistance movement, and Mr. Oliver Tambo, leader of the banned African National Congress.

Deposed Swazi leader flees to South Africa

From Michael Horsey, Johannesburg

Prince Mabandla Dlamini, the deposed Prime Minister of Swaziland, has arrived in South Africa with his family. Their whereabouts has not been revealed. Nor is it clear whether Prince Mabandla intends to ask for asylum in South Africa or to move on elsewhere.

It is the second time this month that a southern African politician has left his country in the midst of political turmoil. On March 8 Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwean opposition leader, fled secretly to Botswana, claiming that his life was in danger. He is now in Britain.

In Prince Mabandla's case, his departure seems to have been known in advance to both the South African and Swaziland Governments. Confirming the flight of the Prince and his family on Saturday, Mr. R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said that they had crossed the border "in the customary way with valid travel documents".

According to Mr. Botha, the Prince is "tired and wants to be kept out of the way so he can think about his future", and has promised not to create problems for the Swaziland Government while he is in South Africa. For its part, South Africa would do nothing "to harm or damage our relations with Swaziland".

Prince Mabandla was replaced as Prime Minister last week by Prince Bhekimphe Dlamini, another relative of the late King Sobhuza II. Not much

else is known about him, except that he is said to have studied politics at Sussex University.

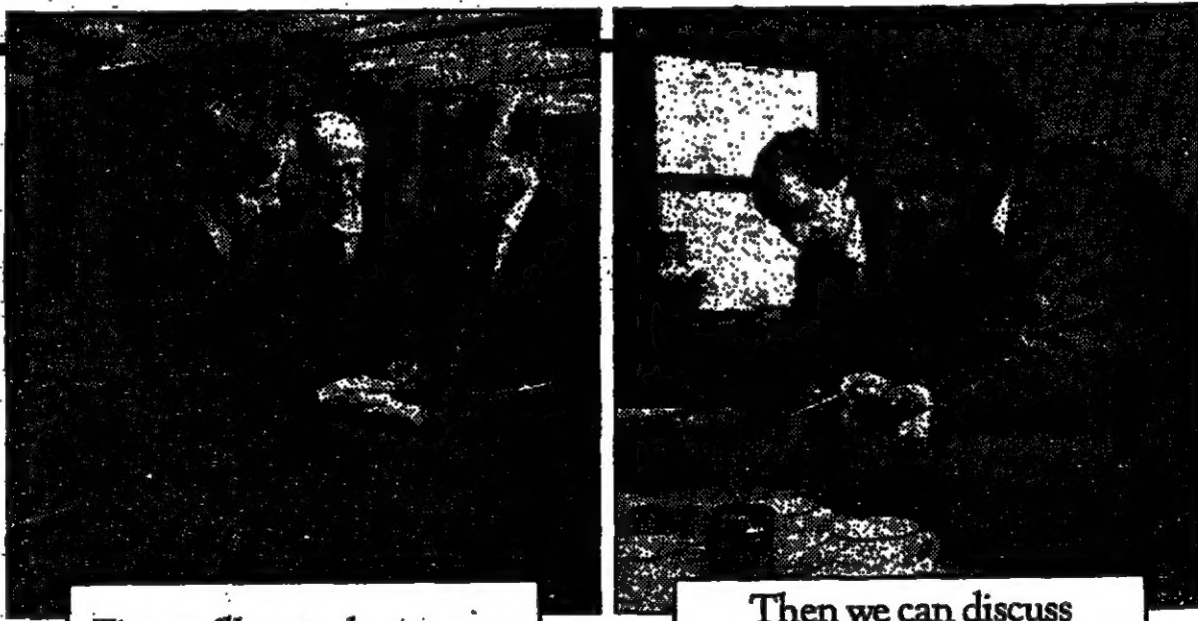
The new Prime Minister's main distinction is that he is a staunch supporter of the deal with South Africa on which King Sobhuza was working when he died at the age of 83 last August without a designated heir. This would involve the cession of South African tribal land and people to Swaziland in return for the latter's closing its borders to guerrillas of the underground African National Congress.

There was strong speculation in Swaziland last week, encouraged by some officials in the royal household, that Prince Mabandla might be put on trial for high treason in connection with the arrest of two members of the Liqoqo, the supreme council of state, on charges of sedition. The charges against the two men were dropped soon after Prince Mabandla's dismissal.

Suspicion of a strong South African connexion in the strife between the Liqoqo and the former Prime Minister was fanned when the news of his dismissal was broadcast on South African radio a week ago almost before anyone in Swaziland, including Prince Mabandla, was aware of it.

For several days Prince Mabandla, who had been the personal appointment of the late King refused to accept that his dismissal had the approval of the Queen.

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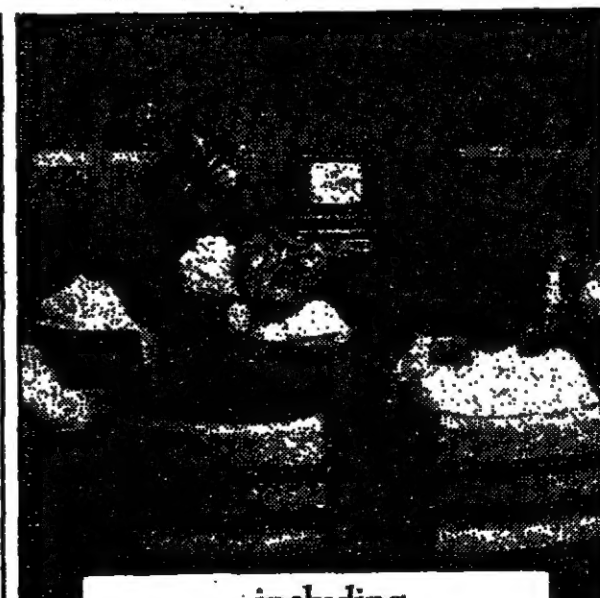


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SPECTRUM

Tower-block slums are not the only victims of low capital investment and inadequate architectural research.

In the first of three articles, Charles McKean examines the disastrous consequences of Britain's building philosophy



LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
Built 1967. Scaffolding on the roof last year indicated problems, possibly to do with mosaic, glass and concrete piling company



NEW SCOTLAND YARD
Opened 1967. Loose masonry panels may be replaced by metal facings



HILLINGDON
Condensation, degradation of external cladding and in one case basic instability have affected six estates built on the same system. Minimum cost of essential repairs: £8m



STRATFORD POINT
Cladding panels have slipped off this and a companion 14-storey block in the East End of London. More than 100 families have been moved out. May be demolished

Built for speed, without stability

Last month the Environment Secretary issued a public warning about the concrete frames of two proprietary mass-produced post-war houses. This week the Scottish Grand Committee is continuing its investigations into the causes of dampness in modern housing. Recently the National Consumer Council concluded that about one-third of all council homes suffer from one or more serious problems to do with their construction.

These developments follow the discovery of a series of well-publicized building failures. Throughout Britain, estate after estate is requiring examination, refurbishment, sale or even demolition. Glasgow's Easterhouse is out to homestead; Liverpool's Piggeries and Edinburgh's Martello Court have been sold; West Lothian's Murrayfield estate has had its head sliced off, and its torso converted into terraced houses; Newham's Ronan Point blew itself up; the Wirral's Oak and Eldon estates were the first to be blown up by others; but, in addition to further blocks in Newham, and scores of houses ranging from Hampshire to North Wales, it is probably goodbye to Fort Beswick (Manchester), farwell Hunslet Grange (Leeds), while in Nottingham the Balloon Woods is going up.

Nor are failures confined to public housing estates. Scaffolding has engulfed the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool, and the History Faculty

Library in Cambridge. The faulty facade of New Scotland Yard has been the subject of a recent lawsuit between landlord and tenant. Throughout the land there has been the sound of collapsing and falling flat roofs covering buildings from schools and factories to military establishments and shopping centres.

Building failures are not new. Most of our great cathedrals fell down — some several times. Blenheim is said to have leaked. Fonthill Abbey collapsed. And, whatever the critics of modern building might say, the rehabilitation of older properties is now revealing the extent to which major parts of our great heritage were jerry-built with quite absurd and appalling detailing, leading to extensive wet and dry rot. No age has a monopoly of building failures.

The cost of the current crop, however, far outweighs anything in history, and could amount to hundreds of millions of pounds. What we are now having to demolish is a substantial part of our principal achievement during the period of affluence in the 1950s and 1960s. What went wrong, and could it happen again?

The first of a triumvirate of causes was the vision, developed just before and during the last war, that production-line methods could be adopted

from cars to buildings and provide cheaper, quicker results than traditional methods.

The comparison between methods of house construction and the imagery of cars and car construction probably derives from Le Corbusier. But the war, with its urgent requirement for shelters, army camps and temporary accommodation of all types, provided the impetus, the political will and the money to develop the basic engineering techniques to make mass prefabrication a reality. It was also backed up by the apparatus of unquestioned authority. At the end of the war, Britain was left with devastated cities, a backlog of millions of slums, and a reservoir of technical talent demobilized from the army with skills in mass production. The authority needed to push forward was provided by the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act with its compulsory powers. All that really mattered, at this stage in planning, was pure provision of accommodation. Those daring to query what was provided would have been accused of ingratitude.

Over the next 15 years, prefabrication methods were developed throughout Europe into mass-production industrialized building systems. Some were extremely efficient. An English system could provide five complete flats in one week with a gang of only five workmen. The builders were justifiably proud of their

achievement. Yet speed, as it now turns out, was about the only virtue of the system building. Even the costs only became lower than traditional building if the builders were offered truly gigantic sites — as in Southwark or Glasgow — to allow for economies of scale.

But houses are not like cars. They are in use, exposed to the weather, 24 hours a day; they are not sheltered by garages. To work, the systems required absolute perfection during construction for, as we now know, the weather would exploit every dent, every chip, every crack and every compression. But you do not often find perfection on a building site and, most tellingly, while cars have a first life of perhaps seven years, buildings are costed over 60 years. The original, simple dream was flawed.

The march of the systems spelled the end of traditional building, and the increasing mechanization of construction led to a decline in traditional crafts and in the training of apprentices. These were the imperatives behind a search for new materials — along with the government's cost-control methods, which led to an incautious reliance on the cheapest materials available.

The amount of research in the industry is depressingly low, making architects rely to a large degree upon manufacturers' own claims for their products. The story goes of one

building failure caused by the introduction of new window types: the manufacturer protested his innocence by showing test records at ground level; the window failed 14 storeys up, where wind pressure was entirely different.

Because concrete is such a useful and flexible material, it has been used on many buildings. It is also, however, frequently drab and ugly, so architects tended to clad it with tile and mosaic. Great care is needed if such items, with differential expansion rates, are to adhere to each other: falling tiles have been features at both Warwick and Cambridge universities.

A feeling has therefore arisen that a return to traditional building will somehow avoid building problems. Unfortunately, there have been almost as many failures in these schemes as in the system buildings. The term "traditional" is a misnomer. Bricks, plaster and mortar are all much harder now, and behave differently. Building regulations and increasingly complex servicing requirements inhibit the use of traditional detailing — even if a traditional craftsman could be found. A modern building hiding behind tile hanging and a pitched roof is still subject to the uncertainties of modern buildings.

Certainly, mistakes have been made.

Government agencies failed to realize the extent of climatic difference between various parts of the country and based their costings on a presumed equality: yet in Aberdeen, the heating requirement is almost four times that in London; and the exposure conditions between Edinburgh and Glasgow varies by almost 100 per cent.

But there is no real evidence that the majority of building failures have been caused by adventurous experiments trying out new materials upon an unwilling public. Instead, the faults can be attributed to the fact that we do not invest in research, so that architects have to rely to a large degree upon what the manufacturers claim: to the fact that, as a nation, we spend about 40 per cent less than any other European country on our buildings; and to the fact that speed of construction with low capital cost took priority over attention to detail, the use of approved methods, and care in craftsmanship.

People who support a cheap, short-life society should not be too concerned when their plastic gutters get eaten by squirrels and their glazed plastic roofs are pecked by seagulls for the materials of most buildings constructed since the war have included those which are both cheap, and have a short life.

Tomorrow: The failure to anticipate social change

In Putney, a family waits for Greece to reopen the case of their daughter's death. Frances Gibb reports

The long struggle to the truth about Ann Chapman

It was one o'clock in the morning of October 19, 1971 when police arrived at the Putney home of Edward Chapman and his wife, Dorothy, with the news that their daughter Ann, a journalist, had been murdered while on holiday in Greece. By daybreak, he recalls, his semi-detached home was swarming with newspapermen. "I knew then, right from the beginning, simply because she had said she was going after a 'big story', there was something suspicious about her death."

For 11 years now that belief has led Chapman, a 72-year-old retired civil engineer, on a relentless pursuit of the truth surrounding his daughter's death: he believes that Ann, a 25-year-old freelance reporter with BBC Radio London, was killed by agents of the Greek military junta, then in power, who suspected her of spying; and that the man now serving life imprisonment for her death is innocent.

Tomorrow, after 14 trips to Greece and spending £6,000, almost all his life's savings, Chapman's efforts may finally be rewarded. The judges of the Greek Supreme Court will sit to consider a report on the case by the Chief Prosecutor. On the strength of it, they are expected to announce a retrial of Nikolaos Moundis, a former prison guard and notorious "peeping Tom", convicted of killing Ann Chapman during a rape attempt.

under duress. The Prosecutor concludes that Moundis is "most probably innocent". For the Chappmans, it has been a difficult fight. "We have been 100 per cent up against it," Chapman says. "The stock phrase, from both Labour and the Tories, has been 'We can't interfere with the Greek authorities'." Scotland Yard, his wife adds, once said: "You don't want to cause an international incident, do you?"

Their luck has risen and fallen with the changing fortunes of the Greek government. Chapman divides the past 11 years into three periods: the black period from Ann's death to the fall of the junta and incoming of the Karamanlis government; the grey period up to July, 1978, when the Supreme Court rejected Moundis' first plea for a retrial by one vote; and, finally, a lighter period which began with the election of Andreas Papandreu, followed last year by the appointment of the new Minister of Justice, George Mangakis, who in particular has pressed strongly to reopen the case.

She had not been keen on making the trip, but something led her to a 'big story'

The breakthrough finally came when Richard Cottrell, European MP for Bristol, offered to take up the case, if necessary, to the European Commission on Human Rights. Both he and Chapman had a lengthy meeting with Mr Mangakis, who swiftly re-opened inquiries. Two months

later, in January this year, came the Chief Prosecutor's report.

What has kept them going is a faith that, eventually, the truth would come out. The death hit Mrs Chapman very badly. "I used to wander out and hope I'd be knocked down", she says. For almost two years she could not accept what had happened. "I told my husband, when he was visiting Greece — search the prisons, you might find her locked up there."

"I couldn't believe this had happened. Ann was a quiet girl, studious, not man-mad, with a good understanding of people — she read psychology at university. But her husband adds, 'perhaps naive as a journalist'."

Ann told her mother on her last evening she had been given a big story to follow up that would make her name as a journalist "all over the world". Who gave it or what it was remains a mystery. "She was placid by nature", her mother recalls, "but that time she was quite excited." She was on the point of making further explanations but then changed her mind, saying she would tell all on her return.

Ironically, she had not at first been keen to take up the offer of the Greek visit, paid for by the travel firm Olympic Holidays. She was offered the trip after meeting a representative of the firm on another story. "Ann was not keen to go and talk about tourism when they had that awful regime", her mother says. "Then she thought she would go, but would write about something else as well."

Her more serious journalism was to involve interviews with such people as Lady Fleming, whose release from prison was then expected daily, and prob-

ably others opposed to the military regime. She had made contacts to this end prior to leaving London; perhaps one of them had given her the tip for her "big story".

Her last movements on October 15 were to leave the Pine Hill Hotel in Kavouri to catch a bus into Athens at about 7.50 pm. She was going to meet the rest of the travel group for a meal. Two days later she was found, half strangled to her underwear, her arms and legs bound with wire, on a waste ground beside the bus stop.

Outlining new evidence in the case, the Chief Prosecutor has said first that the death was intentional (Moundis was convicted of manslaughter rather than murder); that her death was 1½ hours after her last meal — consequently the murder was not committed where the body was found, as she had not eaten for some hours before leaving the hotel; and that scratches on her body support the view that the corpse was moved two to six hours after death.

This conclusion, that of Professor David Bowen, the pathologist, virtually rules out Moundis as the killer: by ten o'clock, two hours after Ann left the hotel, he was picked up by his father-in-law, a taxi-driver, in Athens.

Finally, there is a statement, made in 1976, of a police officer who claims that in 1971 he was stationed in Corfu and was detailed to follow Ann while there.

She left her hotel to catch a bus. Two days later they found her, bound with wire

For his part, Ann's father is concerned about two other matters that lend strength to his case. The first is the missing tape. On the day of her death, Ann played to other tour members interviews she had recorded; according to one of them, the first was a conversation with the managing director of Olympic Holidays made prior to the trip. But this interview, innocent in itself, was missing when Greek police returned the tape to Chapman; as, perhaps, were others with it.

Then there is the missing key witness, Brian Rawson, then an Olympics Holidays employee, who reported Ann was missing. He did not attend the trial and left Greece in November 1971; in spite of repeated efforts through Greek lawyers, a private investigator and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Chapman has failed to trace him.

Since he retired in 1979, the case has occupied most of Chapman's waking hours; either writing his book on the affair or planning his next move. Last week Ann would have been 37. "March is always a strain for us", Mrs Chapman remarks. This March may be different.

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston

The divisions of humanity



Humanity has a compulsive urge to divide into two teams and kick hell out of each other, even if only a series of friendly matches.

East v West is very popular at the moment, as is men v women. U v Non-U has gone underground, though Left v Right is doing as well as ever.

The trouble with all these divisions is that people take them far too seriously — it's only a game, after all — and that they don't impinge on daily life enough. What's the good of going out for a healthy session of us v them or haves v have nots if there's nowhere to play except Darlington?

I think the answer must be that we have got the divisions wrong. Divide humanity into two teams, by all means, but on a modest scale, which is how most of us live. Tentatively, I suggest that mankind can be more realistically split up into teams as follows.

Train Behaviour: Those who, when lots of people get in at a station, take their belongings off the seat where they have been lying, and those who put their belongings on an empty seat.

Holiday Snaps: Those who have the strength of mind to take newly developed photographs home before taking a look at them, and those who can never resist opening the packet straightaway under the amused gaze of the Asian chemist.

Zebra Crossings: Those who will never, ever venture on to a zebra crossing until the traffic has stopped and switched off engines, and those who step on to zebra crossings in order to make the traffic stop in the first place.

Is a Money Situation: Those who cannot bear being in the red and those who cannot bear being in the black.

The Sub-Marx Brothers Joke: Those who, after stating the blatantly obvious and having been greeted with the remark "You can say that again!", resist the temptation to say it again, and those who don't.

Inside Out, Or Outside In: Those who, when trying to fold a newspaper in a high wind, face into the wind and hold the newspaper by its two outer edges, and those who place their back to the wind and hold the paper top and bottom by the middle.

Paperback Problem: Those who fold paperbacks right back as they read them and those who treat books properly.

Separation Time: Those who, when told by a couple that they are getting divorced, commiserate with them, and those who congratulate them.

Storages: Those who, when travelling by air, place their ticket in a special, but unusual place where they can always get at it, and those who don't. Those who check their ticket five times between arrival at the airport and boarding, and those who don't. Those who know in their heart of hearts they've forgotten something and those who never do.

Social Awareness: Those who, when called "Sir" by someone in a menial position, warm to the innate respect being shown, and those who are aware of the innate contempt being concealed.

Quiz Test: Those who automatically start slotting themselves into categories in a piece like this, and those who would rather die than get involved.

Have you spotted the snag in all this? That you yourself don't fit either of the descriptions in any case? Well done! That's because in each case there is a third category I didn't mention.

The missing categories are, in order: those who take other people's belongings off railway seats, those who insist on showing their snags to the Asian chemist; those who cross between zebra crossings; those who, in a theatrical interval, rush to steal someone else's drink; those who look first at the price of a painting; those who use the word "prestigious" to mean "dizzy at extreme height"; those who wait on a station platform at the place where the train buffet will stop; those who have no idea if they're overdrawn or not; those who can't remember what they've just said; those who crumple the paper into a ball and throw it away; those who tear off the pages as they finish them; those who think "I wonder which one I'll have to stay friends with?"; those who trust all air tickets etc to their companion; those who when called "Sir" reply "Or madam, as the case may be"; and those who go straight to the end to fiddle the score.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 26)

ACROSS
1 Dedication (11)
2 Just delivered (7)
10 Scornful expression (5)
11 Stage layout (3)
13 Flying weapon (1,1,1,1)
16 Moved smoothly (4)
17 Darker areas (6)
18 Oval cells (4)
20 Detailed description (4)
21 Incliner (6)
22 Circular band (4)
23 Kemel (4)
25 Caustic solution (3)
28 Loop (5)
29 Rice dish (7)
30 Covering cloud (5,6)

DOWN
2 Indian Prince (5)
3 Cut short (4)
4 Charged summons (4)
5 International match (4)
6 Colicoid (7)

7 Cleverly arranging (11)
8 Forerunner (11)
12 Exposed (6)
14 Document (3)
15 Talk with enemy (6)

19 Junior mess (7)
20 Name (1,1,1)
24 Loosen (5)
25 Welsh symbol (6)
26 God of love (6)
27 Employer (4)

SOLUTION TO No 25
ACROSS: 1 Railway 5 Sabot 8 Eve 9 Medulla 10 Lumber 11 Asia 12 Start 14 Inevitable 16 Persist 18 Robe 21 Rebut 22 Fanfare 23 Ed 24 Sord 25 Yields
DOWN: 1 Ramp 2 Indus 3 Well appointed 4 Years 5 Self assurance 6 Bathub 7 Theories 13 Airports 15 Rarest 17 Tally 19 Bawdy 20 Near

سكزا من لامل



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STALIN'S ENGLISHMEN

Stalin's Englishmen are being laid to rest. Inside a mouth Donald Maclean and Anthony Blunt have died: one in Moscow, the other in West London. Very soon the ashes of both will be mingled with the same English soil they sought to betray. Maclean's in Buckinghamshire and Blunt's in Surrey. This is not a moment to dance on their graves. Both ended their lives as sad, disillusioned men, plagued with ill-health.

In a sense they, and those who shared their convictions, died in August 1939 when news of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact reached London. The burning desire to resist Fascism and to combat the economic slump could no longer be slaked by fidelity to a brutal tyranny that was prepared to do a deal with its own kind at the expense of small nations like Poland. Only a high degree of cynicism and/or self-delusion could have fuelled their continuing allegiance to the Soviet cause after 1939 for all the Anglo-Russian camaraderie of the 1941-45 Grand Alliance.

The reason the deaths of Maclean and Blunt are worth contemplating is the lesson their lives offer to other, present-day, young, gifted Englishmen worried about arms races, the possibility of war, economic depression and an appalling large army of unemployed. In the early 1930s, as in the early 1980s, such genuine concerns led

many of the most intelligent and sensitive young people into contemplation of radical solutions, the fundamental re-fashioning of the country's economic system or unilateral disarmament. All this is perfectly proper and free of taint. The same applies to the thousands who eagerly absorbed part of the message of John Strachey's *The Coming Struggle for Power* in 1932 and 1933. The slump did have appalling consequences. Hitler's accession to power was menacing. The national government in London did appear powerless to do anything about either.

Where the crucial difference lay between Maclean and Blunt and the bulk of their concerned fellow countrymen of a left-wing disposition was in their readiness to work in a clandestine fashion for another nation as a means of saving their own, the most perverse and distorted form of patriotism imaginable. It was not just a question of borrowing planning techniques or welfare arrangements from the Soviet Union and pressing for their adoption by democratically elected British governments. It was working for the interests of the Soviet regime, even where these conflicted with the interests and, possibly, even the lives of some of their fellow countrymen. It was a chilling betrayal and it distinguishes them from the small army of Left Book Club readers and

Peace Pledge signatories who wanted a better world and who managed to love and serve their country while doing so.

For in the early 1930s, as in the early 1980s, Britain, and the western democracies, offered, however dimly at times, the prospect of real, beneficial change without trauma, terror or violent revolution. As long as the avenues of peaceful, democratic change remain open in one's own society, the transferring of primary loyalty to another is treason. Maclean and Blunt were not comparable to French patriots who sought British, and later, American help to remove the German occupier or the Vichy collaborator. Force had removed the possibility of peaceful change in France after June 1940.

The lesson of the lives of Maclean and Blunt is not "my country, right or wrong". It is to illuminate in the darkest colours the frontier between the impulse to improve one's society through the mechanism of radical change legitimately and democratically pursued, and the washing of one's hands, the impermissible abandonment of hope about its future that can lead men into the service of their country's enemies, real or potential. To abandon Britain intellectually, spiritually and emotionally would be as wrong for us as it was for Stalin's English disciples.

DUAL TRACK IN IRAN

The year 1362 in the Iranian calendar began last week, and was marked a little grudgingly by Ayatollah Khomeini with a message to the nation. Grudgingly because, as he reminded his audience, "this festive day... is a national day and not an Islamic festival". Iran like the rest of the Islamic world numbers its years from the *hijra* of Muhammad. But it persists in using a pre-Islamic solar year, with the result that it is now forty-one years behind the Islamic lunar calendar. The Ayatollah would have liked to do away with the solar year altogether, but on this point Iranian national tradition has so far proved too strong for him.

Similarly, the establishment of "Islamic" institutions since the revolution has by no means always been accompanied by its logical complement, the abolition of the corresponding "nation-state" institutions which existed before. The result is the existence of parallel systems within the country, even though the existence and permissibility of such parallelism is vigorously denied by the official philosophy of the state. This parallelism is one of the factors which make it extremely difficult to analyse the nature of the regime now in power in Iran, and consequently to predict its behaviour.

Thus when one hears or reads of so many acts of barbarism and vandalism committed in present-day Iran - the mass executions, the torture, the macabre judicial procedures, the cult of martyrdom and its use to send thousands upon thousands of teenagers to death in battle, the abasement and oppression of women on the pretext of "saving" them from

being "forced into incorrect ways" - it is tempting to say that Iran has simply retreated into the Dark Ages, or indeed the Dark Ages. In saying so one will hardly offend the regime, which proclaims quite openly that the ideal of human government was achieved in the seventh century A.D. One will none the less be in danger of missing some important aspects of Iranian reality, and may thus be led to make some dangerously false assumptions.

Such a mistake was made by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq when he embarked on his invasion of Iran two and a half years ago. He did not reckon with the ability of this medieval, barbaric, and moreover chaotic state to fight a large-scale war with modern weapons.

Of course one can explain that as the product of a mixture of factors: revolutionary enthusiasm; a reflex of national self-defence, the training and weaponry inherited from the previous regime; the help given by some foreign countries in the form of spare parts (Israel) or goods bartered for oil (mainly the Soviet bloc). It remains true that the necessary compromises were made. The marriage of fanaticism with a degree of technical sophistication was somehow effected.

Similarly, it is dangerous now to jump too quickly to conclusions about Iran's economic state, and hence about its ability to continue the war. It is well known that Iran helped to precipitate the crisis in Opec by increasing production and selling below the official price, and it was natural to assume that this reflected a desperate effort to meet the cost of the war effort. Yet, those who have direct

dealings with Iran do not find much evidence of desperation.

On the contrary, it appears that the country's foreign exchange position - in marked contrast to that of Iraq - has improved strikingly over the last two years, and that it is now able to pay cash for imports from the West instead of resorting to barter deals for inferior goods from Eastern block countries. Moreover it is represented in its international financial dealings by people who, whatever their Islamic beliefs, show a sophisticated grasp of the way the Western capitalist system works.

The oil minister, Mr Gharazi, for example, gave on his return from the London Opec meeting a plausible explanation of Iran's discounting policy (they have to offset the higher shipping and insurance costs arising from the war), implied that Opec had shown understanding of this and that it would therefore continue, and said that "in order to maintain the solidarity within Opec as well as not to give others any excuses, we accepted a quota of 2,140,000 barrels (per day), following our contacts with the officials of the Islamic Republic and their approval".

Yet the following day Hajatolislam, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Majlis and Friday prayer-leader of Tehran, announced in his Friday sermon that the oil minister had not voted for the Opec agreement and that Iran would not accept it. Parablelism at work again.

Whether Iran actually implements the agreement only a close study of the oil markets over the next few weeks will show. What is clear meanwhile is that this is a regime impossible to like, exceedingly difficult to predict - and dangerously easy to underestimate.

STREAMING THE CHANNELS

For many listeners the difference between amplitude and frequency modulation will always be less compelling than the nature of Parliamentary reporting or the fate of a character in *The Archers*. Perhaps it is public bewilderment at the arithmetic of megahertz that explains the present media response. To the BBC's white paper *Radio for the Nineties* published last week, this is a pity. For the BBC is proposing nothing less than a national switch-over to VHF and a great cleansing of the frequencies; we will require extensive re-education about our dials. The BBC needs public support, too, for its coming battles with the Home Office, the all-powerful arbitrator of frequency allocation under international agreement.

It would be Luddite to resist the BBC's case for technical changes: listeners on certain frequencies will find programmes barely audible; it is most unfair that Radio One's many millions of listeners cannot listen to their brand of music on a clear VHF stereo signal. The BBC's plan for new frequencies would simplify the present divisions within the channels which, for example, bring to Radio Four listeners on VHF in the mornings (that infuriating though occasionally educative) experience of running into the schools programme at nine o'clock. How charmingly simple it would be if listeners could tune to the BBC's national

stations from left to right in ordinal sequence. The Government should respond to these plans quickly and positively.

Yet measures to improve audibility and rationalize reception are not enough. As the white paper turns from broadcasting form to content it falters. What is missing from the discussions of "channel identity" or a new "fifth network" to fill the gaps in current programming for local radio is a sense of editorial purpose, of the future place of BBC radio in the national life. Once, years ago, a director-general of the corporation called the public for BBC Radio "a broadly-based cultural pyramid slowly aspiring upwards". Nowadays such an aspiration is considered reactionary; the plan for the future is to cater for the many segments of a fissiparous audience.

For some BBC planners the prospect of direct broadcasting by satellite with its multiplicity of channels brings closer the day of "generic" output when each of a multitude of tastes, high and low, can be individually served. But they plan at peril of the BBC's distinctiveness. More channels probably would mean worse programme quality and diluted editorial authority. The discipline of a limited number of outlets forces the BBC - even on Radio One - to mix the programming and, occasionally, to lead the listeners outside the expected stream.

Since before the white paper was published there have been whistle-blowers within the BBC anxious that the principles of mixed programming are under attack. In recent weeks renewed fears have been expressed for the future of Radio Four: Miss Monica Sims, the controller of the network, has been publicly warning about the attraction for many BBC executives of a stream of news and current affairs in place of the present idiosyncratic mixture. In reply Mr Richard Francis, managing director of the BBC Radio, says misplaced conservatism over Radio Four obscures the fact that the formats must constantly change.

He is right that Radio Four is not the be-all and end-all of *Radio for the Nineties*; he gives a welcome assurance that there is no plot to decimate *The Archers*. But disquiet inevitably arises from the white paper's failure to provide some broad context for the corporation's radio output in the years ahead. Radio Four's untidy mixture is broadcasting for middle Britain, occasionally providing - as in last year's Parliamentary debate on the Argentine invasion of the Falklands - acts of national communion, perhaps even a sort of national cement. If the BBC were to lose a sense of leading, informing and stimulating not just groups but the national community, then the changes in format would be destructive.

Only one kind of human death

From Dr Christopher Pallis
Sir, There is still much confusion, I am afraid, when the media address the issue of death. Your report (March 24) that Mr James Davey died "after 11 days on a life-support system" conjoined to comments that he had, by then, been "clinically dead" for 11 days can hardly have helped your readers.

Shortly after he had been admitted to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital Mr Davey was found to show the physical signs of a dead patient. Even that point on his was dead, for death of the brainstem is the necessary and sufficient condition of death of the brain as a whole, and death of the brain means death of the individual.

The ventilator, after that, was pumping air into a corpse. It had ceased to be a "life-support system" and it is very misleading to refer to it as such. Switching the machine off would not have been withdrawing support from someone who was still alive, but ceasing to do something useless to someone who was already dead.

The words "clinical death" create confusion of a different kind. They are sometimes used to denote a state in which the brainstem is irreversibly destroyed but in which breathing - and hence a heart beat - can, for a while, be driven by a machine. The words are misleading for they imply the existence of several kinds of death ("clinical death", "brain death", "read death", "cardiac death", etc.).

There is only one kind of human death: the irreversible loss of the capacity for consciousness, combined with the irreversible loss of the capacity to breathe (and hence to sustain a spontaneous heart beat). All death, in this perspective, is brainstem death - for the key functions that define a human being as an independent biological unit are subserved by the brainstem. Death, thus envisaged, could arise from either events within the head, or from events primarily affecting the circulation. A moment's reflection will show that even cessation of the circulation ("classical" definition of death) is only lethal if it persists long enough for the brainstem permanently to cease functioning.

May I put in a plea that we cease, henceforth, to speak of "life-support systems" when we mean ventilators (which may or may not be supporting life) - and that we stop talking of "clinical death" when we mean individuals with a dead brainstem? Understanding these complex issues (and drawing the conclusions that logically flow from them) would be made much easier if we started calling things by their proper names.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER PALLIS,
Reader Emeritus in Neurology,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
University of London,
Hammersmith Hospital,
Ducane Road, W12,
March 24.

Perturbed spirit

From Mr H. J. Spencer-Palmer
Sir, The fake photographs of the Cottingley fairies, as reported by you on March 18, were not the only ones to mislead Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. His reputation, however, rests solidly on his earlier works and is certainly not "in tatters". Unfortunately, in later life his enthusiasm for the occult and supernatural phenomena sometimes led him astray.

In 1929 Sir Arthur lectured in Nairobi on Spiritualism and had the misfortune to exhibit, among other alleged spirit photographs, one of the ghost of Brockley Court, near Clevedon, Somerset, which was actually a fake photograph of my father taken by his brother in 1909 as a student's prank.

My father was so shocked to see his own fake photograph appear on the screen that he challenged it immediately. Sir Arthur allowed him to go to the platform, where he explained to the audience how, when and where the photograph had been taken. Sir Arthur then said a few words about practical jokers and promised to withdraw the picture from his collection.

Unhappily, he subsequently attempted to discredit my father's story, perhaps when he realised that the incident had been given considerable unfavourable publicity in the UK, even though the facts were established beyond dispute and he must have recognised this himself. But the great man was then within a year of his death.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. SPENCER-PALMER,
Deamhurst,
100 London Road,
Knebworth,
Hertfordshire,
March 20.

The 'black' economy

From Mr Jeffrey W. Lewis
Sir, Your second leader in today's edition (March 24), "In pursuit of taxes", correctly states that taxes must strike the generality of people as fair in distribution and reasonable in amount.

Surely it is precisely because these conditions are not met that the so-called black economy has arisen; not to claim that it is costing the country £3,500 million a year in lost revenue (page one report) cannot be right. Were it possible to "collect" this tax, then the source would immediately dry up because the activities would no longer be profitable. "You cannot have your cake and eat it".

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY W. LEWIS, Director,
Lewis & Co. (Fabrics) Ltd.,
Sunbury House,
11 Andrews Road,
Hackney, E8
March 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prospect of an arms race in space

From Mr Martin Eve

Sir, President Reagan's proposals for switching from retaliation to defence, as you phrase it, would seem to contrast favourably with the continuing development of nuclear weapons, none of which are defensive. Yet, paradoxically, the building up of these sophisticated defence systems may be facing us with the worst escalation of the arms race since the V2 and the atom bomb.

It is not necessary to subscribe to theories of MAD (mutual assured destruction) to concede that the balance between the superpowers has been a restraining influence on them both. If the USA can now, by its superior technology, make itself immune to attack or counter-attack, it will be able to put into practice the threats made by its leaders in recent years, to fight and win a nuclear war.

It is because of this danger that the two Powers agreed not to develop defences against ICBM attack (with the exception of their two capital cities) and also agreed not to extend the nuclear arms race into space. By announcing his intention to ignore these limitations President Reagan is giving the Russian leaders no option but to follow the American lead and devote every effort to catching up and keeping pace, just as they did with nuclear weapons in the late 1940s. This enormously costly programme for both the USA and USSR will make none of us safer and put Europe in particular peril.

We can only hope that the American people will repudiate this reckless and destructive policy and that America will seek safety and security in the only way that makes sense - by the reduction and withdrawal of nuclear weapons.

Yours etc,
MARTIN EVE,
The Merlin Press,
3 Manchester Road, E14.

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, President Reagan is modest in manner but also grandiloquent. This has led Lord Kennet (March 25) to accuse him of "starting a new arms race" when he was in fact saying nothing new. In any event one

Teacher training in a harsh light

From Mr K. L. Gardner

Sir, Your leader of March 22 on teacher training is inaccurate. Intending teachers are not selected without regard for personal suitability. Students do not qualify "almost automatically" if they reach the required academic standard. The involvement of teachers will not tighten up our procedures. Like many other institutions we involve them already in both selection and assessment of teaching practice. Visit us and get some real data.

Criticism about recent teaching experience is more valid. The one consistency in government policy since the 1970s has been to cut, cut and cut again. The result is a badly skewed staff age profile. In the favoured university sector this has been eased by buying in "new blood". Sir Keith should put his money where his mouth is and let us do likewise. Meanwhile we do what we can.

The Department of Education and Science vie with the CNA (Council for National Academic Awards) in the complexity and cumbersome of their bureaucratic procedures which drain time, energy and enthusiasm. One is therefore horrified to note the intention to impose additional approval mechanisms. Standards will be raised by less, not more interference from above.

We agree as to the lacklustre approach to in-service. What is needed is a proper costing and funding system for part-time work, school-based work and consultancy, which all accept are valuable but which nobody will pay for.

Yours faithfully,
K. L. GARDNER,
Dean of the Faculty of Education Studies,
Brighton Polytechnic,
Falmer, Brighton,
Sussex,
March 23.

From Professor Joan D. Browne
Sir, I write as a veteran of the teacher training institutions to say that I simply do not recognise the system described by your leader writer of March 22, which he thinks is so outmoded.

First, I cannot remember a time when we did not select students with the utmost care, by interview, after consideration of the reports of heads and examination results. "Selection methods" were the subject of

constant investigation. There is, of course, a limit to the number of hours that can be spent on the process and it is not easy to select for a profession at 18 those who will enter it at 21 or 22.

A great deal will depend on whether the present and future B.Ed allows genuine opportunity for transfer to other academic courses; this should be easier now that teachers are not usually trained in monotechnic institutions.

Secondly, what on earth is meant by the statement that students qualify "almost automatically" so long as they reach the academic standard? All students have to pass a final teaching practice after something like 10-12 weeks' experience in the course as a whole. One might argue that the time was not enough, or that it was an artificial experience, but negligible it was not. It was to remedy certain admitted defects that it was proposed to strengthen the probationary period under experienced teacher-tutors and some well founded experiments were carried out. What happened to those? I think they were axed.

The most genuine point raised by your leader is at the end. If teachers are to meet the changing demands of the schools, and if Sir Keith Joseph is really going to abandon the present flexible system in favour of a limited recognition of competence for certain age ranges and subjects, much more will have to be spent on in-service training. This would be true, too, if new blood in the form of teachers with recent relevant experience were to be fed into the system. For a good primary teacher is not necessarily a good trainer of primary teachers.

Finally, it is ingenious, to say the least, to knock institutions for six, as has been done to the teacher-training institutions in the last 10 years and then complain that they have not been innovators. Survival, not innovation, has been the name of the game. It was the tough but hopeful atmosphere of the sixties that spawned innovation.

I wish that I could believe that the sympathetic atmosphere and hard cash that were available then would be provided now.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN D. BROWNE,
91 Bridge End,
Warwick,
Warwickshire,
March 23.

Design education

From Mr Peter Gorb

Sir, Mr Ellis (March 15) should not be too encouraged by Professor Ashworth (March 17). The universities in general will only actively encourage design-based courses in schools when, like Salford, they have sufficiently good contacts with industry to persuade them to employ design committed graduates from not only engineering courses but also schools of architecture and design. The key to improving design education is to first convince senior managers that design is central to their business purpose.

The current Government campaign, "Design for Profit", is a credible attempt to begin that process. But follow-up is going to be essential and it is a sad fact that there is very little teaching about design in British business schools. Furthermore, the campaign is limited to manufacturing industry and design should be a central concern of all businesses.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GORB,
Senior Fellow in Design Management,
London Business School,
Surrey Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
March 17.

Weather to blame in Ethiopia

From the Chairman of the Save the Children Fund

Sir, It was heartening to read your leader article (March 24) concerning the Ethiopian famine. Nonetheless, I feel that some of the points in Bent Juel-Jensen's letter in the adjacent column do need comment, particularly since they may dissuade people who were thinking of helping the famine victims from so doing.

Regardless of the ideological hue of the Ethiopian Government, it cannot be held responsible for the current situation, which has been caused by two years of almost continuous drought and resultant crop failure, as reported by field workers on the ground. Not even centrally planned economies can control the weather! Further, it may be said that the response of the Ethiopian Government has been prompt, considering the insecurity of the area and the lack of resources. Indeed, the worst excesses of starvation, last seen in 1973-75, have so far been averted.

The public deserve reassurance that aid channelled through non-governmental organisations is unlikely to be diverted from those in need - particularly in our own case, where we have a team of British doctors, nutritionists, etc. on the ground supervising receipt, transport and distribution.

Finally, it can never be ethically right to deny humanitarian aid to people so desperately in need on the basis of their government's policies. Just as it would be quite wrong to deny aid to those suffering from the same famine in the provinces of Tigray and Eritrea.

Yours faithfully,
GILES WITHERINGTON,
Chairman,
Save the Children Fund,
Mary Datchelor House,
17 Grove Lane,
Camberwell, SE5,
March 24.

From Mr Fred Wachsberger
Sir, After seeing the all-too-familiar scenes of famine and plight on our television, this time from Ethiopia it is encouraging to read in today's *Times* (March 24) that the British Government is sending out £350,000 in aid.

I didn't get to read this till I sat down to watch the early evening news on BBC TV, which was followed by our local service giving the splendid news that Austin & Pickersgill had landed a £25n shipping order after months of hard bargaining and so bringing much needed work to an area of extreme high unemployment.

Good news indeed; until one leaves the order is from... Ethiopia! What is going on in this crazy world? Sincerely,
FRED WACHSBERGER,
192 Western Way,
Darras Hall,
Ponteland,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear,
March 24.

Male midwives

From Mr John Lambent

Sir, Horace Walpole is not to be believed on the subject of man midwives (letter, March 23). This was his term of abuse for Arch bishop Thomas Secker, who, as a device to secure admission to Oxford University, first acquired a medical doctorate at Leyden, after studies in Paris that included Gregoire's lectures on midwifery.

Walpole meant that his medical degree equipped him as a doctor, and did not imply male midwife status as now understood. The insult of nomenclature was par of Walpole's vendetta against Secker (see A. W. Rowden, *KC, The Primates of the Four Georges*).

Moreover (I write as archivist of St James's Church, Piccadilly, the doctor of a former rector) Secker's chaplain, Wintle, was more widely believed by contemporaries and later scholars when he wrote: "I do aver that he never was in the midwifery line, nor ever practised that or any other branch of surgery". I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN LAMBERT,
St James's Vestry,
197 Piccadilly, W1,
March 23.

Misuse of books

From Mr Philip Mickelborough

Sir, Professor Edwards's lament to the long-lived book shows a most unbecoming academic insularity.

No doubt he does still use textbooks which he bought just before the war - *Macbeth* in 1933 is little different from *Macbeth* in 1939 - but would he advise his colleague in, say, the Department of Nuclear Physics to teach from the books he bought as students?

In many disciplines knowledge is increasing so rapidly that most textbooks are out of date before reaching the bookshops, and are quite useless within a few years. Nevertheless, one must agree that book should not fall apart at its first reading.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP MICKELBOROUGH,
39 Kingsbury Street,
Marlborough,
Wiltshire,
March 22.

Taking 'The Times'

From Mr Stephen West

Sir, Travelling first class from Norwich to London yesterday, copy of *The Times* was stolen from my briefcase.

Is the recession now so severe that top people can no longer afford to buy their own?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WEST,
5 Church Street,
New Buckenham, Norfolk,
March 23.

THE ARTS

Michael Deakin (right) has emerged from the power struggle at TV-am as the clear winner. He successfully took on the 'Famous Five' presenters in a bid for full editorial control of the programmes. Another crisis now, and he knows that his head will be the one to roll.

Interview by Bryan Appleyard

The last man left to blame

"I sought no fights, I sought only peace," says Michael Deakin with the smug air of a man who has just hit upon a good pay-off line. As the world now knows he has sought in vain for, as programme controller of TV-am, he has presided over one of the most startlingly bitter outbreaks of civil war that television has yet seen. Before Anna Ford guaranteed herself a place in every newscast compilation of the year 1983 by muttering darkly about the acts of treachery which only history would expose, Deakin had been the least well known of the group which founded commercial breakfast television. Afterwards he was the star, a cool eminence grise who had taken on "presenter power" and won.

Now, in the uneasy calm at Camden Town, he has taken to speaking in a kind of code. He talks at length of the competitive and psychological pressures of American breakfast television, and of the sense in which TV-am is the first really commercial station in Britain, in that it genuinely has to compete for advertising against the monopoly commercial companies. Ratings are therefore its life or its death. This is all intended to be heard by his staff, who came from the cosy monopolies of the regional franchise holders or the BBC. He is trying to teach them that TV-am is in a tougher ballgame, especially for presenters.

Deakin's part in the "hurricane of events" at the Camden Town studios and at Barclays Merchant Bank is now clear. By about week four he and some of his colleagues had seen that the BBC had run away with the ratings. Audience research

indicated there was nothing wrong with the content but the presenter combinations were going down badly. Deakin attempted a reshuffle, starting with Ford, but this was seen by the five stars as the thin end of a wedge. They united behind the previously arranged rosters.

The danger was that such a stance threatened to paralyze any attempt at editorial control of the station. Deakin appealed to the board, having failed to get backing within TV-am. The resulting crisis squeezed out Peter Jay and split his job into its two components: chairman and chief executive. It also asserted that Deakin was the programme controller and he was going to control the programmes.

He announced this to a meeting of the staff: "I'll tell you exactly what I said. I said 'there's only one editorial chair here'." This is a somewhat less dramatic version than the quotation which was reported. But Deakin is now out to calm things down, to present the changes at TV-am as evolutionary rather than revolutionary and the hysteria of some members of the staff as the result of "external pressure and internal fatigue".

Later this week he will announce the specific programming changes which will reveal his own analysis of how far things were wrong. But until then, he is firmly non-commenting on the slightest implication that his Famous Five are anything less than the best. "I've got five of the best TV personalities in England and I think I'm very lucky."

Deakin is the son of Churchill's

close friend Sir William Deakin, former Warden of St Anthony's, Oxford. He went to Cambridge with Derek Jacobi and Ian McKellen and was heavily involved in theatre. Later he opened London's first graphic art gallery - Editions Aleo - and then joined the BBC briefly, when he produced Jack De Manio's *Today* show for radio. He went back to art dealing until Donald Baverstock spotted him and whisked him off to Yorkshire Television where he spent 12 years, rising to the rank of Editor of Documentaries, making his name with a series of increasingly controversial programmes including *Johnny Go Home*, which landed him in the Old Bailey charged with criminal libel - "I've often thought in the last weeks that the most difficult time I had previously spent was in the Old Bailey. I think TV-am and the Old Bailey have much in common."

He was part of the team that presented the TV-am franchise application to the Independent Broadcasting Authority. He is reluctant to identify any problems at that stage. "I think we put together a bid in order to get the franchise - that's what bids are for. I still think it was the right team and I still think we'll get breakfast television right."

But the strain was immense. Apart from building the studios there were the logistical problems of constructing Britain's second largest television station with a 23-hour a week output. Cash flow meant that up to Christmas it could only have 30 employees. The build-up to the full complement of almost 400 all happened in six weeks. But still,



Deakin maintains, it was all hanging together. "There has never been a row at TV-am until lately. It was a very contented place."

But the first really public crack in the edifice appeared when the BBC launched *Breakfast Time* two weeks ahead of them and succeeded in being alarmingly successful. Deakin admits the BBC's product wrong-footed him.

"They, in fact, chose to become a personality show. And they played hardball - for instance it's now impossible for us to put on star guests because they are told if they come to us they won't appear on any BBC show. We've had two or three examples of that. The BBC went down-market in a way that is not dignified in a public service organization, but so be it... They

did talk about doing *Newsnight* in the morning but it turned out not to be so."

Meanwhile the IPA-Equity dispute was putting tremendous pressure in TV-am's revenues. Yet all of this could have been withstood if the ratings had been right. They were disastrously wrong and the decisions Deakin announces this week must, for his sake and for the patience of the investors, get a few things right. "Clearly the figures have got to start rising rather quickly. By the end of the summer we should be level pegging with the BBC."

Deakin sticks to the view, however, that they need not be that radical: "The belief that Peter's departure will change the sort of programmes we make simply isn't true. We must remember that I am

also part of the team that went to the IBA and which they entrusted with the franchise. My professional reputation and the programmes I have made were part of what made them award it to this particular group."

In other words the fundamentals are right but the detail is wrong. The general entertainment-based approach stays and so, runs the official line, do the presenters. Deakin retains a brash belief that he can do it, whatever accusations have been flung in the small hours. His heart, after all, is in the right place.

"I've always conducted my life on the basis of what seems fun. The Deakin family, I learnt to my amazement, not so long ago were in fairgrounds. All the fairground equipment at the V & A says

Deakins Fairs on the side. In the middle of the nineteenth century we turned into landed gentry but I've always had a streak of the fairground about me."

"Look about this place as you come in the hall. It wasn't built by apparitions. I think it was meant to say that this is a fun place to work. This was a sort of circus tent - Barnum and Bailey. Let's say we are in entertainment and this is a fun place to work."

But might not the casual observer think Deakin had been operating as more than just a benign ringmaster in recent weeks? "I think television is a political business. I hope and believe that everything I've ever done has been for the good of the station. I sought no fights, I sought only peace."

Opera

Overwhelming power of basic truth

Katya Kabanova
Grand, Leeds

One thing is clear about *Katya Kabanova*. It gleams as a steady truth from the documents and studies collected in John Tyrrell's hugely informative Cambridge Opera Guide, on the work, and it sounds out bald, simple and direct in Gribanov's new production for Opera North.

It is the fact of Janacek's intense emotional involvement with his subject, an unconditional sympathy that overrode other matters like consistency of symbolism, social setting or musical artifice. *Katya* is quite straightforwardly a story of sexual passion at odds with loving affection, and in this compact, candid production its basic truth comes

over with overwhelming power.

Stefanos Lazaridis's set is a boon. The original intention had been for his ENO designs to be used, but his work with Mr Vick led to a new conception that is, like so much else in this production, elementary and therefore elemental. There is only one feature on the stage: the Kabanov house, tall-windowed and grey, set high at one side on a revolve. But this is enough to give Mr Vick the means to rise to the most highly charged moments in the opera. Tikhon's departure at the end of the first act is followed by Katya, staring out through the windows, as the house turns. Then, in the middle of the third act, the house spins wildly while Katya trapped inside while the storm music rages in the orchestra.

Mr Vick's last coup comes where it is most needed, right at

the end. He efficiently clears the stage, except for Katya's body and the curtain house, and has the protest of off-stage wordless chorus booming amplified to make an urgent final climax. Nor is the quieter detail neglected. There is a perfect rightness in such things as Katya's assignment with her lover, when he begins to sing while she walks out towards us, perhaps not yet hearing him, not rushing into his arms but taking a deliberate course into disaster, her own woman.

Marie Slorach, as Katya, is well on the way to a vital interpretation. In the quiet music she has all the fresh, natural beauty Janacek saw in his heroine, and though in the first act her anguish seems a little contrived, she later makes Katya's feelings as strong and genuine as they have to be. Among the others in a disci-

plined and committed cast, Judith Pierce is an implacable, deeply grim mother-in-law, Barbara Walker a warm, stable Varvara, Bonaventura Bottone a spirited Vanya who enjoys himself, and Anthony Roden a husband whose moral weakness is as effective as his ability to rattle off quick dialogue; indeed, hardly a word of the Norman Tucker translation is lost throughout the opera.

The evening also benefits from David Lloyd-Jones's feeling for the music's nerve, its quick interchange of obsessively mechanical progress and stilled emotion. Yet another advantage is the confidence of the first two acts, as Janacek came to prefer, so that the tragedy is filled all in one go before the interval and then spilled, with violent compassion.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Victory
Royal Court

Subtitled "Choices in Reaction", Howard Barker's latest play considers a woman caught on the wrong side of the Restoration. Julie Covington plays the widow of one Bradshaw, a political visionary having only a name in common with the surly lawyer who played Calpurnia to Charles I's Christ at the royal trial.

Barker's Bradshaw, whose image of a Utopia without money, sexual constraints or sex stereotyping sounds spuriously twentieth-century even in the context of those progressive thinkers, got himself exhumed and posthumously hanged along with Cromwell and the "regicides", condemning his wife to a trail round the London gibbets with a canvas bag.

Both in action and speech, inevitably, Barker seizes every chance for squalid orgasms, purged brains, shrivelled wombats and all his usual paraphernalia. He has a wonderful time with Charles I's court, all gropes amid the lyric odes and using Bradshaw's bits for a gruesome coconut shy. Nigel Terry's Charles, his youthful face furrowed as Lely records, delivers a cascade of slang, period obsolescences and naked obscenities with grim banter.

But why is he there? Why did England's republican experiment collapse? Barker has few doubts, making no reference to the protectorate's tyranny except a countrywoman's complaint that nothing got better. Charles II is a conscious puppet, "licking crowds for bankers", one royalist veteran, now in the export trade, says: "I have a wound five inches long in my groin that says England's got to have a bank."

After that, where can the play go? Bitterly recalling his colleague's failure, somebody called Milton is made to envisage the endless necessity for counter-revolution because power corrupts. What society would buy that, even from Howard Barker? And, anyhow, why this sudden loss of hope on the left, this identification with defeat? Does anyone else share it?

Danny Boyle, a name I had not known before, has directed a beautifully paced, taut production, equally in command throughout the vast social and emotional range Barker demands. And nowhere more than in Miss Covington's performance, drained with disillusionment and then ironically triumphant as she fawns herself into a royal mistress's service. Beginning at the bottom, in wise silence, watching her guileless student son (Martin Stone) take a false name and a Scots accent, she learns to rob sympathizers and couple with a coarse cavalier (the sanguine Kenny Ireland).

The author allows her a baby and a reissue of her husband's *magnum opus* as hopes. But I found little comfort, despite the exhilaration of the language, a sulphurous firework display that only tickled the audience though it should have scorched them. And, in the teeth of the Joint Stock budget, Deirdre Clancy has created three *Restoration* comedies' quota of costumes that understand every character, and an elegantly confined set.

Anthony Masters

BBC SO/Pritchard
Festival Hall/Radio 3

The most interesting aspect on Friday of a programme not otherwise distinguished in either idea or execution was the opportunity it provided to ponder what exactly makes a concerto a concerto.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir John Pritchard were strong advocates for the 1935 *Musica for Strings* by Arthur Bliss - less functional and more unpredictable than its title suggests, and looking back to Handel's *Concerto Grosso* as well as forward to Tippett's *Concerto for Double String Orchestra*. They nurtured the tough growth of this sturdy English/European hybrid, sharpening its bracing outer movements with gleaming, incisive phrasing, and making the most of the shifting pulse and textures of the central slow movement.

The rapid, whimsical scale passages, tingling in their bright articulation, were reminders of the Bliss that might have been, but he surrendered to his earlier Gallic seduction instead of roving himself back in English soil. Ravel's music had wooed Bliss in the 1920s, and it was his *G Major Piano Concerto* that we heard next.

Jean-Bernard Pommier's performance had plenty of static electricity if rather low voltage. Orchestra and keyboard crackled away in the outer movements, bristling and surdonic with the piano anticipating here, mocking there, the vividly characterized orchestral solos. But the reading had a studied, slightly self-conscious side to it, which, in the Adagio particularly, tended to imprison its elusive nature and lessen its piquancy.

After the interval came Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*. It was a disappointingly routine performance, reliable, sometimes more, from a purely technical point of view, but lacking in imaginative wonder. It was as if an English mist had crept into the bones of the introduction and the mellifluous but voice-less Intermezzo, and the second movement, while apparently adopting the original faster version, was played almost wearily, on the distinctly conservative side of Scherzando.

We missed, too, that acute sensitivity to dynamic nuance which can still bring an unearthly shiver to the "night music" of the Elegia, making the single, numb woodwind notes seem to be born of another sphere. The potential was there; but when it came to the Bluebird shudder near the end, it seemed a different orchestra and a different Bartók from the one we had heard just two weeks earlier.

Hilary Finch

Eschenbach/Frantz
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Among the most romantic yet firmly controlled of duo pianists, Christoph Eschenbach and Justus Frantz had a surprise for their audience on Friday night. As an extra item in the all-Brahms programme they included four of the Hungarian Dances, but played in a version

Concerts

for two pianos hitherto unheard here, instead of four hands at one piano.

Mr Eschenbach told us that the two-piano version was referred to in the composer's letters, but that the music had only recently been found "in an old library". He did not specify where that was. As might be expected, the pieces gained a greater sonority and richness of harmonic texture from the double keyboard, the writing sometimes suggesting the spikier chords of the cimbalom.

These followed the set of *Walzes*, Op 39, played as a duet at one piano. The pianists kept the music in front of them for this item alone, and successfully made the walzes as enjoyable to hear as they are fun to perform. The playing retained some Northern rigour under the Viennese charm, allowed the rhythmic momentum to sway the melody along (and at times the pianists with it), and in some walzes achieved a delicate effect with a tiny hesitation before the first beat.

The concert began with the "St Anthony" Variations in a form that differs quite a lot from the better-known orchestral version. I was much taken by a sense of miniature drama which the pianists imparted to the middle variations, the stealthy tread and sinister threat of No 4 being followed successively by headlong flight, angry expostulation then tender forgiveness in the almost balletic *siciliano* of No 7, leading to an impressively sustained finale.

The duo artistry could be appreciated at its best in the *F minor Sonata*, Op 34, the technical skill equally divided, the focus of attention alternating in a carefully co-ordinated balance. The controlled inner tension of the performance compensated for the lack of warmth compared with the same music in its piano quintet form. The virtuosity required of two pianists also still seems hard work, but the result was undeniably exhilarating.

Noel Goodwin

The Music Ensemble
St John's

Another group devoting itself to new music appeared in London for the first time on Friday. The Music Ensemble is one fruit of last year's Dartington Summer School, at which event its members came together to play works by composers who attended.

In fact it was a piece by that school's director, Peter Maxwell Davies, which crowned this auspicious debut. The source of inspiration for *A Mirror of Whiteness*, composed in

1977, was the vista beneath Davies's Orkney home, where the Atlantic and North Sea meet in an ever-changing swirl of reflected light. Davies insists that his use of a magic square as a structural device in this work is audible, and certainly the innate feeling of growth and metamorphosis can be traced to the presence of easily perceptible eight-note permutations of the plainest themes he uses. The result is a rich, pulsating organism, whose alchemical transformations were realized impressively by these players under the direction of John Carver.

Keith Williams directed with equal aplomb two pieces by younger English composers. Anthony Powers's *Another Part of the Island*, written in 1980, attempted quite successfully to reflect, though not to depict, the broad dramatic processes of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Shakespear in the event there was too much of the playwright and not enough of the composer in the music, but for all that there were some notable gestures: the general atmosphere of mystique and confusion, for example, and the appearance of Prospero to set the world to rights, depicted by solo cello.

On the other hand, Martin Davies's *The Map of Love*, written for these players last year, was an appealingly wry comment on the compositional principle of drawing separate elements of an idea together in the manner of Sibelius (and Maxwell Davies). The resolution of its opening chaos turned out to be the gaudiest pastiche of salon music in what sounded suspiciously like a flat minor. It was a complete contrast to Webern's *Two Songs*, Op 8, which the contralto Patricia Middleton sang with concentrated passion and assurance.

The Music Ensemble will make a further appearance at St John's tomorrow.

Stephen Pettitt

Considering that Dirk Bogarde was once an "Odeon id" and has spent the last 12 years playing Germans, it is remarkable how pleasant he seems (Omnibus, BBC1). Perhaps his candour helped; he described himself variously as a timid creature, a man of no brain and even, on occasions, a mannered actor. But they were perfect manners. An ability not to spill the beans but to eat them, too, is the mark either of a man who does not care much about himself or of one whose vanity has made him entirely self-sufficient. Both, I imagine.

Certainly he is an actor of wide cinematic range, having progressed from the clean young man of the "Doctor" series to the taut homosexual of *Victim*; his fans cheered him then, not because he played the part of a Uranian but because it was that of a 45-year-old man. *Tempus fugit*; the audience absconded. *Death in Venice*, however, persuaded the world that old age has its own terrible consolations.

Noel Coward, in one of his real moods, told Mr Bogarde "Never go near the cinema". But in fact he flourished in its artificial light: the secret, it seems, is to concentrate very hard since the camera "is capable of photographing thought". He is right, of course, and it was his clarity and honesty that made such delightful interviews.

John Le Carré, on *The South Bank Show* (LWT), was a less endearing, and certainly more solemn, figure. But there is a large element of the actor within him, also; he seemed to stun an audience of schoolchildren with readings from his novels, and he went on to impersonate the voice of Yasser Arafat in a most convincing manner. But, then, he has always been used to playing parts.

As a child he suffered both his father's disgrace and his



John Le Carré: a large element of the actor

mother's abandonment of her family, there were secrets he nurtured, forced to conceal them from a world which he tried simultaneously to placate and to understand. And so it is that in his novels reality is sinister, violent and labyrinthine; he studies it with the astonished fascination of a martyr looking at the arrows which have pierced him.

His thrillers, of course, are a wonderful mechanism for ratio-

nalizing guilt and secrecy, fear and betrayal. But he is also astute enough to ensure that his own fantasies complement those of his public: "People," he said, "want to interpret their lives in terms of conspiracy." The difference between fantasy and reality became evident, however, when extracts from his latest novel, about an Israeli double agent, were read alongside news "clips" from the Middle East. In contrast to his

readily accessible prose, there was too much suffering, too much chaos, too many people to be easily incorporated as "characters". Perhaps such a situation can only be understood in terms of melodrama, perhaps not. The spectacle of Mr Le Carré discussing his thrillers in a grave manner did not reassure me.

Peter Ackroyd

British premieres at the Bloomsbury Theatre from April 7 to 9. The works are *A Full Moon in March* by the American composer John Harbison, setting a dance-drama of that name by W. B. Yeats, and *Inner Voices* by the Australian com-

poser Brian Howard to a libretto by Louis Nowra. Robert Stephens is to replace Paul Scofield as Oberon in Bill Bryden's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* when it transfers to the Lyttelton Theatre next month.

● Giuseppe Sinopoli takes up his post as Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra with effect from January 1984; he will be appearing with the orchestra in May that year, and will be spending 12 weeks each season with them from 1984-86

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ECONOMIC VIEW

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| +13 | 57 | 67 |
| +10 | 29.0 | 3.9 |
| | 3.6 | 4.3 |
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| | 3.2 | 4.6 |
| | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| +8 | 4.3 | 5.2 |

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| 33 | 10.7 | 3.6 | .. |
| -1 | 12.0 | 10.2 | .. |
| -27 | 5.7 | 3.8 | .. |
| | 504 | 13.3 | |
| 45 | 54.0 | 2.1 | 15.8 |
| -12 | 8.7 | 0.4 | |
| | 10.0 | 12.5 | |
| | 500 | 13.7 | |

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 856.9
FT 100 80.63
FT All Shares 413.71
Marginalist 28.033
Tring Hall USM Index 189.1
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones 8302.77
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 563.33
New York: Dow Jones Average 1140.09 down 5.81 (Friday's close)

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Sterling \$1.4605
Index 78.1
DM 3.5300
FFr 10.5800
Yen 348.50
Dollar Index 122.1
DM 2.4147
Gold \$413
NEW YORK
Gold \$413.75
Sterling \$1.4597

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 10%
3 month interbank 10%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/8%
3 month DM 4 1/8%
3 month 12 1/2-12%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period February 2 to March 1, 1983 inclusive: 11.391 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Newman-Tonks (amended) Finance: Charterhouse Group, Delta Group, Early's of Whitby, Freeman's, Glynn International, Good Relations, Low and Bonar, Molyneux Holdings, Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England Royal System Packet Company.
TOMORROW - Interim: Boscawen RST, LWT (Holding), FWS, American Trust, Booker, McCannell, Bowater Corporation, British Aerospace, Buzell, Cape Industries, Duffell, Eutelsat, Estates, and General, Investments International, Benson, Lonsdale, MacFarlane Group (dormant), Molins (amended), Packitt and Colman, Roshan Group, Superdrug Stores, Voeper.
WEDNESDAY - Interim: Ben Bailey Construction, Bridon, Castlefield (Kings) Rubber, Stethers and Pitt, Walker and Homer, Finlay Associated Book Publishers, Babcock International, R Garwirth, Guardian Royal Exchange, Home Counties Newspapers, Lambert Lowther, Legal and General, Planer Group, Reed Executive, Rotor, Telford, Weir Group, James Wilkes, Yorkshire Chemical.
THURSDAY - Interim: Technican SA, Town Centre Securities, Unigroup, Finlay AS Cars, Arturim, Not Dokes Income Trust, Granplan Holdings, Istock Johnson, Mag-nolia Group (Mouldings).

Board shake-up at Tring Hall

Big changes in the boardroom of mini-issuing house Tring Hall are expected today as a preliminary marriage to a Luxembourg-based Commercial Development Finance Corporation.

Mr Dennis Poll, who helped to start the business more than three years ago, is expected to step down as managing director and three other directors will resign.

The merger was expected to bring new deals for Tring which have not materialized and shareholders have started to mount pressure to get the mess sorted out.

● **UNCERTAIN SKIES:** Boeing is expecting further growth in its military business in 1983, but the outlook for commercial business remains uncertain. Further reductions in employment will be made. Last year the number of employees fell by 11,000 to 90,000.

● **USM EXEMPT:** The business expansion scheme announced in the Budget, will not give tax relief for investments in companies whose shares are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market, Mr John Wakeham, Minister of State at the Treasury, said.

In a speech prepared for delivery to the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, he said the scheme allows individuals investing up to £10,000 a year in qualifying companies to claim tax relief, will not apply to firms whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange or dealt in on the USM.

● **NEW LISTING:** Bainslow Eves will be added to the London & Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News.

BTG joins scheme for small businesses

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

The British Technology Group, whose future role still awaits definition by the Government, is to participate in a £500,000 experimental project - the Acorn Scheme - designed to foster small businesses in the North-east.

BTG is joining forces with English Industrial Estates, the Government agency which provides and manages a significant proportion of industrial premises, to promote innovation and enterprise in the regions with unsecured five-year loans of up to £50,000.

The scheme may be extended to other assisted areas later. It is being backed by funds from Oakwood Loan Finance, part of the BTG Small Companies Division, and is aimed specifically at encouraging the establishment and expansion of manufacturing and service industry companies.

BTG said that the scheme, expected to be attractive to innovative businesses, "is likely to appeal to such companies who because of their success have shown the security normally required by traditional sources of finance."

Acorn's introduction coincides today with the launch of the £100m Small Engineering Firms Investment Scheme (SEFIS 2) which was announced in the Budget and forms the principal element of the Department of Industry's three-year innovation package.

The scheme is designed particularly to help depressed regions like the West Midlands, where Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Industry Secretary, has asked the English Industrial Estates Corporation to investigate the industrial property market and to establish whether there is a need for more development, including high technology industry and new and small businesses.

BTG and EIE officials will be keeping a close watch on the progress of the Acorn Scheme, which will operate in the North-East until the end of the year, when the initial allocation of £500,000 will be reviewed.

Cash plea for key industries

By Our Financial Staff

Pension funds and revenue from North Sea oil should be directed to key industries such as chemicals through a national oil investment bank, according to the Association of Scientific, Technical and Management Staffs.

The association (ASTMS) also wants the pound devalued, Britain to leave the EEC and establishment of an "outward investment agency" to slow down British investment overseas. These pleas will be made at a chemical industry conference organized by ASTMS against a background of 70,000 job losses and the closure of about a third of production capacity over three years.

The main problems facing the industry, according to ASTMS, are energy costs, disruptive imports and long-term import penetration.

According to CBI figures British chemicals manufacturers are paying between 20 and 40 per cent more for their energy needs than their European competitors.

The industry has also been badly affected by disruptive US imports which have benefited from controlled feedstock prices giving the US a competitive edge.

But ASTMS says the long-term import penetration, especially from the EEC, is a more serious problem than disruptive imports. There have been big increases in imports of organics, plastics, synthetic rubber and dyes and pigments.

The multinational companies which dominate the chemical industry are also attacked for investing wherever they think the highest return can be made, and for refusing to involve trade unions in employment and investment decisions.

Fainthearted elements who doubt the value and efficacy of commodity agreements are being invited at the moment to suspend their disbelief. Tin prices are at unprecedented heights and rising, and much of the credit is being claimed by and indeed attributed to the International Tin Agreement.

At the close of business on Friday the London price for metal for delivery in three months stood at £9,206 a tonne, a rise of some £21 on the day. There was a reasonable change or premium over cash tin of about £50. Although business was fairly subdued, the tone of the market was optimistic, and the talk was of the price topping £10,000 a tonne.

To put all this in perspective, it is worth remembering that in February of last year, the peak of the infamous market manipulation, the highest price achieved was just less than

The policy-making committee of the United States Federal Reserve Board meets in closed session today to take what could be its most important economic decisions in more than a year.

Given the nascent economic recovery now under way, the Central Bank must decide whether it should allow more growth in the US money supply to bring down interest rates further, or whether it should tighten the reins to avert Wall Street fear of rekindled inflation.

It is generally agreed that these are the toughest decisions the Central Bank's open market committee has had to take since it decided last year to stir stagnant economic growth by pumping more money into the system.

A wrong move could stifle the signs of vigour in the economy which the Reagan Administration predicts will grow at an expanded rate of 4.7

Lloyd's will act on syndicate limits

By Jonathan Clark

Lloyd's of London is urgently trying to introduce measures to stop its syndicates breaking their underwriting limits or why there are such big losses.

The Lloyd's authorities have been embarrassed by the unrelenting news that a small marine syndicate, number 895, has breached its premium limit and that its members, including Virginia Wade and Mark Cox, the tennis stars, will have to foot a hefty bill for its losses.

The episode will cause some embarrassment at Lloyd's because the Fisher Report into its workings, published nearly two years ago, contained in a seven-page chapter on the problem proposals to prevent such breaches. But these proposals have yet to be translated into the by-laws which regulate the insurance market.

The extent of the loss is still not clear but it is possible that members could face a loss of £25,000 for every £10,000 they put up.

News of the disaster was not a surprise at Lloyd's. Spicer & White (Underwriting Agencies), which employed Mr Bryan Spencer as the underwriter on syndicate 895, told the authorities about a year ago that it believed there was a problem.

It has been decided that the syndicate should be wound down and it stopped underwriting nine months ago. But the extent of the damage only became apparent when the annual audit was carried out in January.

Chamber seeks further easing of VAT rules

By Sally White

Further relaxations on the levy of value-added tax are called for in the Finance Bill by the London Chamber of Commerce. These are the abolition of the tax on building repairs and maintenance, and the lifting of the sales level at which small businesses must report to Customs and Excise. It also advocates the derating of empty industrial plant.

The LCCI sent a letter to the Chancellor on Friday welcoming the measures proposed in the Budget, but calling for the urgent consideration of these suggestions, and the lowering and stabilizing of electricity costs.

These moves would be "simple to execute, low cost in absolute terms, and highly cost-effective in industrial cost and employment creation terms," Mr Tommy Macpherson, chairman of the LCCI's economic affairs committee, said in his letter to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mr Macpherson said the abolition of VAT on building repairs and maintenance would

deal such a blow to the black economy that there could be a net gain to the revenue. Additionally, it would remove anomalies, and stimulate employment.

Presently a number of small companies must report to Customs and Excise to prove that they are not liable. The Chamber suggests that the exempt level for payment should be £20,000, up £2,000 from the Budget turnover figure, and that reporting should not start until turnover is £12,000.

On the face of it the decisive force is the ITA. After the manipulative bubble burst last year the price tumbled in London by £3,500 tonnes. In June it touched a cash price of £5,435 a tonne, the lowest for five years. The sixth ITA hung in the balance and rumours circulated that the Mr Pieter de Koning, the buffer stock manager, could not support the market any longer.

But help was at hand. In April the International Tin Council imposed a 15 per cent export cut, and when the sixth agreement came into force at the beginning of July the quota was raised to 36 per cent. Mines

Wrong move could stifle economic revival

US recovery on knife-edge as Fed decides money-supply policy

From Bailey Morris, Washington

show a revised inflation rate of 4.5 per cent instead of the 5.6 per cent rate predicted earlier, place the administration in the middle of the range of forecast made by private and government economists.

Some administration officials had pressed the Council of

Economic Advisers to produce an even more optimistic official forecast of growth of 5.5 per cent this year. But Mr Martin Feldstein, the council's chairman, insisted on the compromise figure because of continued uncertainty over the strength and duration of the United States recovery.

The revised 4.7 per cent forecast is dependent on accelerated growth, fuelled by confident consumer spending in the second half of the year. But in the short run there are continued and substantial uncertainties about the April-May quarter in the wake of February data which disclosed that growth had slowed. Even at 4.7 per cent - a rate which would add about 500,000 additional jobs by the end of the year - the recovery now under way would be about two percentage points slower than the average post-Second World War upturn.

The role of the civil reserve board in sustaining and nurturing the recovery is therefore critical.

In recent weeks short-term United States interest rates have risen about half a point, largely because of what market analysts believe to be a slight reining in of credit by the Central Bank.

Forecast of \$1.40 pound

A fall in the pound to \$1.40 if the dollar remains strong is forecast by James Capel, stockbroker. This forecast is derived from an economic work based on an expected drop in the oil price to \$25 a barrel. At that level, a trade-weighted index for sterling of 75 is prescribed. The closing level on Friday was 78.1 and the rate against the dollar was \$1.4605.

If the oil price stabilized at about \$25, this would leave

sterling fundamentally undervalued against the trade-weighted index could be expected to bounce back, the brokers say. "Given an overall downward correction in the second half of the year a rise to \$1.55 is likely by the end of the year."

Against the Deutsche mark and yen, however, sterling would have to fall by 21 per cent to restore the 1977 level of competitiveness.



MacGregor: Turned down two increments

Approval today for MacGregor move

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, is expected to be confirmed today as next head of the National Coal Board.

The appointment follows several weeks of hard bargaining between the Government and the New York investment bank of Lazard Freres of which Mr MacGregor is a partner.

Lazard has insisted on another transfer fee contract

similar to the £1.8m deal it clinched with the Department of Industry when Mr MacGregor accepted the steel job in 1980.

The money, most of which will not be paid until 1984 and 1985, will not benefit Mr MacGregor directly although he still commands a share in Lazard's profits.

Announcement of Mr MacGregor's switch from steel to coal will be made in the House

of Commons by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary.

Mr MacGregor's salary at the NCB, where he will replace Mr Norman Siddall, will be more than the £48,000 a year he gets at the BSC but it would not be as high as he could earn in the private sector.

He has already turned down two annual increments while at the BSC.

Co-ops in line for EEC help

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

EEC cash help is likely soon for work in developing United Kingdom co-operatives, many of them in manufacturing, following a big upturn in the number of co-operatives being formed.

The Co-operative Development Agency (CDA), the Government-funded body for advising and promoting co-operatives in Britain, is in line to get £52,000 under a recommendation from the EEC Social Fund. The final decision is to be taken by the Council of Ministers.

The grant would increase the CDA's cash backing by more than a quarter, as Government funding is presently pegged at £200,000 a year. But since the CDA was reorganised a year ago there have been a number of executives seconded to CDA work by private sector companies on a salary-paid basis. This has given CDA a working budget worth about £300,000 overall.

The CDA will be able to use the EEC cash for training co-operatives in business skills in assisted areas of the UK. There is a chance of the EEC aid being extended subsequently.

Hanson offer 'worth less than rival bid'

By Our Financial Staff

Hanson Trust's mainly share offer for the embattled UDS retailing group could not be underwritten for more than 160p a share according to Bassishaw, the rival bidder for the company.

Underwriting at 160p would value Hanson's five-for-eight share offer, topped up last week with 20p in cash, at the equivalent of 120p per UDS share, well below the 130p offered by Bassishaw. Even underwriting at 170p would value the shares at only 126p.

If the offer was underwritten it would mean UDS shareholders effectively had a cash alternative to the Hanson share and cash offer. But if the underwriter, who would accept the new Hanson shares, is prepared to pay out a maximum of only 160p, the Hanson offer

looks a lot less attractive than Bassishaw's 130p in cash.

Bassishaw, which holds 15 per cent of UDS, is adamant that it would not hold Hanson paper, but would dump the shares in the market, which would have a depressing effect on the price.

There are also worries that other UDS shareholders would dump their Hanson shares if they accept that bid.

Bassishaw's principals, Mr Gerald Ronson and Mr Cyril Spencer, will ask to meet Sir Robert Clark, UDS chairman, and Mr Stuart Lyons, managing director, today to put these points to try to get board endorsement for the Bassishaw bid.

Contrary to speculation, Sir Robert Clark is not enthusiastic about the Hanson bid.

Offshore oil rig use declines

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - The utilization rate of offshore mobile drilling rigs dropped below 80 per cent, all over the world this week. This appears to be moving closer to the low of 75 per cent in June 1976, according to trade sources.

Although use for the week ending Friday was 79.6 per cent, there are 143 rigs idle and available for work, or 63 more than in June 1976.

For the similar period last month, world-wide use was 80.7 per cent with 134 units idle. At present, the total world fleet is 702 rigs, a 119 per cent increase over the fleet of mid-1976.

The use of offshore mobile drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico has slipped by one rig, setting an all-time low rate for the fourth consecutive week. Use for the week was 66.7 per cent. Of a total fleet of 207 Gulf rigs, 69 are idle.

The Gulf fleet was reduced by one with the mobilization of a semi-submersible in the United States west coast.

Last week, use of offshore mobile drilling rigs in the Gulf stood at 67.5 per cent for the similar period last month, the use stood at 70 per cent with 62 rigs idle and available.

Of the 120 units in the Mediterranean, North Sea and other European areas, 23 mobile rigs are now idle.

City Comment

Sproat way to catch a mackerel

Tourism is Britain's biggest invisible earner. The fact seems to be less lost on Mr Iain Sproat, the Department of Trade minister with responsibility for tourism, than on some of his predecessors.

But that is only one conclusion to be drawn from his post-Budget shake-up of funding for the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board. It also shows the route Mr Sproat may take when in a few weeks when he brings out his new tourism policy based on a review of BTA and the ETB activities.

Mr Sproat has cut back the funding of the two bodies by 16 per cent or about £4.6m in total with a clear message to look hard at the way money is spent, particularly on administration. The BTA, whose primary task is promotion of Britain abroad, has more staff located in London than it has overseas.

So the BTA was told to drop involvement in British events in favour of more promotion abroad and has the chance of an extra £1m to spend on additional overseas promotions.

The ETB's current spending ceiling for helping tourism projects is being increased by a half to £8m.

An increase was badly needed now that the ETB can help projects anywhere in England rather than just assisted areas, as was the case until last year. But Mr Sproat rather favours more spending on improving the attractions of tourist areas, or extending their season as with all-weather facilities, rather than backing, say, new hotel projects.

This has been the recent thrust of the ETB itself under its chairman, Mr Michael Montague, the lively businessman who has been using ETB money as a catalyst to get together financial packages to lift projects off the ground.

If there are enough worthwhile projects around, the ETB ought to be given more spending scope along these lines. Mr Sproat himself, after all, has lauded tourism as an important growth industry.

That is where Mr Sproat's further plans following the review, which is aided by a consultants study, could come in. Both the BTA and the ETB are spread around several buildings in the London area. The review could well have thrown up possible savings in sharing at least some administrative services.

Transferring such savings to the ETB project work, and maybe more for overseas promotion by the BTA if that seemed justified, would seem to be the least Mr Sproat should do to boost Britain's own tourism potential.

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Walls, Alan
Industrial Development Officer,
Darlington Borough Council,
Town Hall, Darlington,
Telephone: 0325 60651.

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APPOINTMENTS

Chairman and deputy named at Triplex

Mr Lewis Robertson has become chairman of Triplex Foundries Group. Mr Tony Barrett becomes deputy chairman and financial director. Mr Robertson is chairman of F. H. Lloyd Holdings.

Mr Tony Logie, chief executive of independent radio sales, has been appointed director of sales and marketing at Thames Television from May 3 and will join the board.

Mr T. Walker has joined the board of Redland.

Mr Chai Fook Loong has been appointed a director of William Jones. He is chairman of the Malaysian Plywood Manufacturers' Association and a director of Jacks International, Singapore.

Mr Frank Merry has become an assistant managing director of J. Lyons & Co. Mr Merry is in charge of Lyons Tetley with responsibility for the other British European companies, which, together with Lyons Tetley, form the grocery sector.

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| DEBT STOCKS | | | | |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |

| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
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| UNSECURED LOANS | | | | |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |

| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
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| BULLDOGS | | | | |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |

| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
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| CONVERTIBLE BONDS | | | | |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |

| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| COMMODITY OPTIONS | | | | |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |

| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| OPTION PREMIUMS | | | | |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
| AAV-Ly | 85.93 | 7.5 | 3.50 | 11.20 |
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| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| OPTION PREMIUMS | | | | |
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| Stock | Price | Yield | Div | GRV |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| OPTION PREMIUMS | | | | |
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How a bank rescue pulled Wellman back from the brink of disaster

Last August, Wellman entered into what it saw as a short, sharp fight with its US workers, over pay cuts and an 18-month pay freeze. Under the previous owners, General Electric of America, there had not been a strike in 30 years but Wellman, which knows about electrical and thermal engineering, believed that weak management had allowed wages to creep up to unacceptable levels.

Now, eight months later, Wellman is fighting for its life as a direct result of the strike which lasted two months instead of two weeks. Wellman's head has been kept above water by an ingenious rescue package put together by its merchant bankers, Kleinwort Benson.

This is the

World champion deposed by young Chinese

By Richard Streeton

Mike Tredgett, seeking one of the few titles to elude him, and Martin Dew, failed to bring the hosts the men's doubles title on final day at the All England championships, sponsored by John Player, at Wembley yesterday. Tredgett and Dew were beaten in two close games, 15-10, 15-13, by Thomas Kihlstrom and Stefan Karlsson, Sweden's European title-holders.

Overall, the Swedish attacking policy proved too good for the English pair's defence. Tredgett and Dew brought excitement by coming from 3-13 down in the second game before going under, but there was never any chance that their men's would win.

There was a big upset in the singles final, when Luan Jin beat the world number one, Peter Frost, of Denmark, to win last year's final result; and a notable moment when Lene Heston, who was the first to win a world title, the same year, Erland Kops (Denmark) in when and Nora Perry (and) won the mixed doubles. They beat Stuart and Anne Sturt, who were the first to win a world title, the same year, Erland Kops (Denmark) in when and Nora Perry (and) won the mixed doubles.

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Luan Jin: bouncing to victory

needed only 18 minutes to win the first and third games, won the house to his side by the brilliance of his attack, and varied tactical thrusts. For once Frost, at times, was left looking an ordinary mortal. Frost, top seeded in the world championships in Copenhagen in 1982, was beaten in the first round, and then in the third round, and knew the jinx might start up again, but he hoped it would blow itself out. It never did, and there was nothing he could do about it.

Luan, one of the more extrovert of the Chinese team, scored freely to

the end with smashes down the forehand line and to the body. At the finish he jubilantly threw his racket high and caught it one-handed. It was a closing, dramatic theatrical flourish to crown a mastery performance.

In the first game, there were 10 changes of hand with Luan ahead before the Chinese shook off his opponent's tenacious recoveries and moved to 13-1 before Frost got a further point. Luan was 6-2 up in the second before he temporarily lost his accuracy, and left him 6-10 down. He drew level at 11-11 but Frost, keeping the shuttle in play, settled into a steady groove as he has done so often after trailing.

The all Chinese women's final provided less spectacle and thunder, but was much more closely fought, with Zhang Ailing eventually retaining the title by beating Wu Jianqiu 11-5, 10-12, 12-9.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: M. Frost (Den) to P. Frost (Den), 15-10, 15-13; P. Frost (Den) to M. Frost (Den), 15-10, 15-13. Final: M. Frost (Den) to P. Frost (Den), 15-10, 15-13. **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** Semi-finals: Z. Ailing (China) to W. Jianqiu (China), 11-5, 10-12, 12-9. Final: Z. Ailing (China) to W. Jianqiu (China), 11-5, 10-12, 12-9.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Full expect to sign French winger

By Keith Macklin

enterprising Hull club, who it on course for a cup and on top of that, a signing this week. The exciting and free-scoring international winger, will be the club on Thursday to terms with the director, who plays for Tonnies in each league, has been anxious in England for some time, will be quick to capitalize on interest after he had scored a try for France against Great Britain at Hull, Dick Gemmill, the director who is also Great Britain manager, said he saw in completing the deal, significant gains at Wigan.

Hull won 21-18 despite their hooker, Wileman, sent only could breathe easily. "I could only breathe easily," he said, "I could only breathe easily." "I could only breathe easily," he said, "I could only breathe easily."

Wileman fought back from 6-18 to 18-19 after Wileman's dismissal, but was again attacking play and powerful tackling. The Wileman tries were scored by Lydon, Linton, Hogan and Myler. Lydon kicked three goals.

Featherstone Rovers, the team from the mining village in West Yorkshire, reached the Challenge Cup final for the fifth time by beating Bradford Northern 11-6 on Saturday.

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Aintree odds against Francombe

By Michael Seely

National Hunt and Flat racing jostled for the headlines over the weekend. John Francombe broke his right collarbone in a fall from James Hunt at Newbury and may not be fit to ride Gritus in the Grand National. The racecourse doctor estimated that the injury would take two to three weeks to mend. However, the champion jockey's wife, Miriam, said yesterday: "John's never broken his collarbone before. It's a bad fracture, but we won't know much until next week."

Frank Gilman, Gritus's trainer, is a phlegmatic character. John will be alright, I'm certainly not thinking about anyone else," he said. Gritus is pleasing his trainer as he gets ready for his attempt to repeat last season's victory. "He's fine. He's just as well as he was last year. The cat of looking after the National is a pleasure. He's a real character. Let's say I'd rather be training Gritus than not. It doesn't worry me a bit."

All the leading Aintree candidates are coming to their peak at the right time. Spartan Missile was sound yesterday after his defeat of Burnt Oak on Saturday. "I thought he did it well," Nicky Henderson, his trainer, said. He quickened up nicely. He's all right now, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed for the next 24 hours — and afterwards, too. Nicky Henderson, his trainer, said. He quickened up nicely. He's all right now, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed for the next 24 hours — and afterwards, too.

The Tote Credit Hurdle resulted in an exciting finish as Ash King and Craig Smith just managed to repel the late attack of Colin Brown and Vivague. Tenth of October failed to reproduce his Chertemham running and Ashburn blundered his chance away at the last.

A victory for Vivague would have given David Elsworth a fine double, as only 10 minutes later Steve Cawston produced a highly impressive performance to win the William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster. The victory of Mighty Fly was predicted as the fully backed favourite, but it was Jim and Ann Torgy, who bred Mighty Fly on their farm near Blandford in Dorset.

Backers of Mighty Fly may be taking all the way to the bank this morning, but the result of the Lincoln will have given most punters nightmares. Whenver transgressed hardly left the platform, he alone succeeded in building up a head of steam.



A giant leap for Aintree: Spartan Missile on his way to victory at Newbury

Most of the other fancied runners have little better. The effect of the draw was even worse than usual. Crossways was undoubtedly the unlucky horse of the race as he ploughed his lone furrow under the Scotsman's mark time at the start. He finished at least 15 lengths ahead of the next horse to finish on that side. This is the point at which the side runners started to gain the upper hand.

The Cambridge Trophy was a marvellous race to watch. All the fancied runners had their chance. But just as Tony Murray appeared to have won the race, the winner turned to look at the Star. Lester Piggott brought Vervodds storming through. Camisette who was hampered at a crucial stage was third and Soba fourth. As usual, the winner was not the one to be better for the race.

Guy Harwood had his first success of 1983 when Sheikh Mohammed's Bahour won the Mares' Maiden Stakes, but Dick Hern, Henry Cecil and Michael

Stoute will not have any runners until Newmarket's Craven meeting. It is good to hear from Dick Hern that Gorytus continues to thrive. "He worked really well on Saturday morning and I am very pleased with him," he said. Mr. Asquith remarked just before the 1914 war, we shall have to wait and see.

If the going is heavy at Newbury the Nijinsky colt will bypass the Greenham Stakes and be sent straight to Newmarket. This will follow the pattern of Brigadier Gerard in the 2,000 Guineas in 1971. Major Hern is still adamant that Gorytus was the best two-year-old that he has ever trained.

There is no doubt that Diesel is the one that they all have to beat. Cecil, his trainer, said yesterday: "He is having a mark time at present. The ground is bad after all the rain and it is very cold and windy which does not help the horses. But I'm not worried about Diesel. He will take as much as getting ready as his full brother."

Kris, who was not at his best until Ascot. He could be all right for the Greenham.

The champion trainer is reasonably happy with Dunbeath who is one of the favourites for the Derby. "He has been on the easy list after springing a curb (spraining a ligament). But I hope to get him ready in time for Sandown's classic trial in the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York."

The energetic Harwood will be in action again at Leicester this afternoon when he will be in the Burton Overy Stakes. This is Saturday. The course manager, Don Cox, said that many people felt the season should start with a greater flourish.

"It could be better to open with a single programme on the Saturday of eight races starting at 11.30 and ending at 3.30," Mr. Cox said. The racecourse committee will meet on April 13 to discuss the plan, and if it is adopted, the negotiations with the Jockey Club.

Yankee's Princess reigns at Curragh

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Twenty minutes after Mighty Fly had won the William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster, a second four-year-old filly Yankee's Princess scored an even easier win in the Irish equivalent, the Curragh. Yankee's Princess, ridden by Joanna Morgan, came to challenge the pace-making Enniscorthy at the furlong marker and quickly drew clear to score by three lengths. Close home to the favourite, Fairport got up to deprive Enniscorthy of second place by a neck.

Croghan Hill, the last top-flight racehorse to carry the colours of the Queen's former trainer, the late Capt Sir Cecil Boyd-Rochford, keeps his form astonishingly well, and at eight years of age, added yet another valuable prize by winning the Moonbridge Stakes. Vincent O'Brien had no runners over the weekend, but he disclosed that the new 2,000 guineas favourite, Danzatore, will be among the favourites for the The Annet Stakes at Phoenix Park's re-opening meeting next Saturday. A decision on whether or not to run there will not be dictated until the probable state of the ground. Danzatore holds an alternative engagement in the Gladness Stakes at the Curragh, the following Saturday.

Doncaster may cut down fixture

Doncaster's three-day meeting, which traditionally begins the new Flat season, may be replaced by a single extended day on the Saturday. The course manager, Don Cox, said that many people felt the season should start with a greater flourish.

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ROWING

Cambridge double at Henley

By Jim Ralston

Cambridge University drew first blood over the weekend, winning the women's and lightweight men's races at Henley yesterday. Oxford's only haul was Cairn's victory over the local boat, but it was a busy weekend of rowing altogether, with the Head of the River race on Saturday contested by 395 crews, and the inaugural Veterans' Head yesterday over the Boat Race course.

After only seven outings together, Thames Tradesmen — a collection of national squad oarsmen — cruised to a fine victory in Saturday's Head race. London University were runners-up, and Cambridge, with Italy's Flat Aviazione, the fastest overseas crew, in third place.

Kingston and Vesta did well, finishing fourth and sixth respectively, and the lighter London eight, two crews in, were surprisingly quicker than their heavyweight crew with Olympic and world medal winners on board. Imperial College rowed well to finish in the first 10 their best result for over 20 years.

Oxford will no doubt be overjoyed with Tradesmen's result, having recently beaten them, and Isis's 12th place was sufficient to leave the general feeling that in Saturday's Head, Goldie, who beat Isis in the Kingston Head, gave Saturday's race a miss, no doubt to hold their psychological advantage. Some prediction of the form of these two crews is likely when they meet Imperial College during the week.

The veterans must have felt their age as they struggled against the tide over the Boat Race course. Lea won the title, Barclay's, in last place, took over 25 minutes to complete the course.

There were several thousand spectators along the Henley towpath for the women's and men's lightweight races. Cambridge's powerful engine room — Barnard, Marwick and Pantier — was instrumental in their fine victory.

HEAD OF THE RIVER: 1. Thames Tradesmen (17 men), 17.42; 2. London University, 17.48; 3. Vesta, 17.49; 4. Kingston, 17.52; 5. Isis, 17.53; 6. Imperial College, 18.02; 7. London University, 18.10; 8. Vesta, 18.12; 9. Isis, 18.13; 10. Thames Tradesmen, 18.18; 11. Vesta, 18.24; 12. Isis, 18.25; 13. Thames Tradesmen, 18.26; 14. Vesta, 18.27; 15. Isis, 18.28; 16. Thames Tradesmen, 18.29; 17. Vesta, 18.30; 18. Isis, 18.31; 19. Thames Tradesmen, 18.32; 20. Vesta, 18.33; 21. Isis, 18.34; 22. Thames Tradesmen, 18.35; 23. Vesta, 18.36; 24. Isis, 18.37; 25. Thames Tradesmen, 18.38; 26. Vesta, 18.39; 27. Isis, 18.40; 28. Thames Tradesmen, 18.41; 29. Vesta, 18.42; 30. Isis, 18.43; 31. Thames Tradesmen, 18.44; 32. Vesta, 18.45; 33. Isis, 18.46; 34. Thames Tradesmen, 18.47; 35. Vesta, 18.48; 36. Isis, 18.49; 37. Thames Tradesmen, 18.50; 38. Vesta, 18.51; 39. Isis, 18.52; 40. Thames Tradesmen, 18.53; 41. Vesta, 18.54; 42. Isis, 18.55; 43. Thames Tradesmen, 18.56; 44. Vesta, 18.57; 45. Isis, 18.58; 46. 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This post, vacant in September, carries responsibility for administration, liaison with parents, care of about 100 students, and a small amount of teaching. The successful applicant will be aged 24-30 and have a good university degree in science or maths. He or she will have extensive experience of teaching at 'A' level. Salary in excess of £11,000.

Please apply with c.v. and names of two referees to The Principal, 24 Elvaston Place, London SW7.

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WELLESLEY HOUSE SCHOOL, BROADSTAIRS, KENT

Require: RESIDENT SENIOR MATRON for SEPTEMBER 1983. Responsibility for health and welfare of about 100 boys boarders aged 9-18 in the Main School. Experience or Nursing qualifications essential. Apply with references of 2 referees to Mrs. W. F. Sale.

ST GEORGES SCHOOL, ASCOT

Mrs J. M. Goodland, BA, Cert Ed, presently Housemistress at Carterton School, Kent. Looking for a new challenge. Please apply to Mrs. J. M. Goodland, 100 The Green, Ascot, RG22 7JH. Tel: 0344 871111.

ST JAMES'S SECRETARIAT, CANTON, IRELAND

and Training Students. Please apply to Mrs. J. M. Goodland, 100 The Green, Ascot, RG22 7JH. Tel: 0344 871111.

APPOINTMENTS - UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS UNIT. The University of Exeter is seeking a senior lecturer in Agricultural Economics to take up the post in September 1983. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The post is a full-time position with a salary in the range of £12,000-£15,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of the Agricultural Economics Unit, University of Exeter, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4PU. Tel: 0392 266111.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL. CHAIR IN MANAGEMENT SCIENCE. The University of Manchester is seeking a senior lecturer in Management Science to take up the post in September 1983. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the Department of Management Science. The post is a full-time position with a salary in the range of £12,000-£15,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of the Management Science Unit, University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL. Tel: 061 275 3000.

APPOINTMENTS

RESIDENTIAL MEDICATOR

needed for 1983-84. Apply to: Mrs. J. M. Goodland, 100 The Green, Ascot, RG22 7JH. Tel: 0344 871111.

BARBER

needed for 1983-84. Apply to: Mrs. J. M. Goodland, 100 The Green, Ascot, RG22 7JH. Tel: 0344 871111.

A FAST GROWING division of a UK

company is seeking a senior lecturer in Management Science to take up the post in September 1983. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the Department of Management Science. The post is a full-time position with a salary in the range of £12,000-£15,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of the Management Science Unit, University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL. Tel: 061 275 3000.

GENERAL ASSISTANT

needed for 1983-84. Apply to: Mrs. J. M. Goodland, 100 The Green, Ascot, RG22 7JH. Tel: 0344 871111.

Getting behind the counter

Retailing needs people who are able not only to lead and motivate a team, but also to maximise resources and adapt to change. Many companies with 'O' and 'A' levels because they want trainees who can think and absorb knowledge quickly. But personal qualities, which do not come automatically with examination passes, are even more important.

The qualities required vary slightly according to the specialisation chosen. Store management demands much more in the way of leadership than a position in a buying department, which calls for administrative ability. Most retail management jobs require social skills: young managers will soon be expected to supervise staff, many of whom will be older than they are.

One regular source of the qualities needed is enthusiasm, capacity for hard work and self-motivation. Another adds "commercial bent". Retailing is highly competitive, and anyone considering it as a career must thrive under pressure, and be interested in making profits.

Companies have programmes designed to train school leavers for management through periods of practical experience in different areas of retailing, and at different levels of responsibility. Practical experience always starts with selling, and anyone who thinks A levels will mean exemption from serving

Beryl Dixon concludes a two-part series on opportunities in retailing

behind a counter or cash till will be in for a rude shock. Stores supplement practical training with courses, run sometimes by their training departments, sometimes by local colleges.

Most stores run a general scheme which is followed by all trainees, regardless of their ambitions. Periods are spent in different selling departments, deliberately chosen to provide a contrast between self-service and face-to-face selling. Trainees are also attached to non-selling departments such as personnel, credit and buying, thus getting to know about administrative procedures.

Their last period on the sales floor is spent managing a section under the supervision of the department manager. At the end of the training period most trainees aim for departmental management positions. Some may be selected for further training in buying, personnel or other head office functions.

In supermarkets trainees spend time on the sales floor, at the checkout and in the warehouse, with attachments to head or divisional office, to observe the work in distribution, accounts and buying. Some companies do have separate entry schemes for central buying and

personnel but most prefer all managers to have completed the general training before specialising. Chain stores follow a similar pattern. One has an 18-month scheme for all trainees. After that they opt for staff or store management and move on to a second training programme.

Length of training programmes in the large stores varies, often according to individual progress, but 18 months to two years is the average.

Some retail multiples have devised a programme which makes trainees assume responsibility for their own training. They are given a list of topics to be covered and a training diary to be completed. This is inspected at regular intervals, and individuals are expected to allocate the time required to each topic. Courses and appraisal sessions supplement the practical experience.

The above schemes are those applicable to 18-year-olds. Companies have different schemes for holders of degrees and diplomas, and you may wish to consider a retailing career after higher education. Students who have taken any subject are usually acceptable, but it is worth knowing that one or two colleges run business studies courses which incorporate options in retailing, while one has an option in fashion buying.

Beryl Dixon is author of the present *New Opportunity Press* publication "Graduate Careers in Retailing".

Wanted: graduates with ideas

● The Manpower Services Commission is putting up £25,000 to search for 40 Scottish graduate entrepreneurs. The idea is to encourage entrepreneurial potential by offering professional help and advice, including a £5,000 training package for graduates with ideas for launching their own businesses. The scheme will be supervised by the Scottish Enterprise Foundation in conjunction with private companies.

If it succeeds at Scottish universities, it will be adopted in England at Durham, Manchester and Aston universities, as well as at Trent College and the London Business School. Graduates in engineering, science and business studies are expected to be the most likely to succeed, but all graduates with a commercially viable idea are eligible.

● A survey published last month reports that the number of vacancies for accountancy trainees has decreased in the last six months. The survey, compiled by Accountancy Personnel, Banking Personnel and other specialist recruitment divisions within the Career Care Group, states that graduates joining large firms of accountants can now

expect salaries up to £5,000 a year in London; elsewhere the average was said to be around £4,400. Chartered accountancy was found to be an increasingly popular career choice, but statistics show that non-graduates will find it difficult to enter the profession.

The survey says newly qualified accountants continue to be well rewarded and sought-after if good, but that employers are much more discriminating in rewarding only proven expertise and offering promotion only to those who have the

profession with £1 a day luncheon vouchers, non-contributory pension, personal and season ticket loans, and annual bonuses of up to 15 per cent as a matter of course.

● Women with a flair for management are being encouraged to apply for a limited number of scholarships being offered by the Management College at Henley-on-Thames. It is part of a move by Henley to attract more women on to their courses. Currently only about 15 per cent of students on the post-graduate MBA are female and it is suspected that employers are reluctant to sponsor junior women managers on to the £8,000-plus course.

The MBA is an 18-month sandwich type course for graduates, or professionally qualified people with three or four years of work experience. It is divided between college tuition and industrially-based projects and the aim is to produce the next generation of high-calibre managers. Women who are interested in applying for a scholarship should contact Dr David Birchall, Director of Graduate Studies, The Management College, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon - RG9 3AU (Tel: 0491 6454).

NEWSROUND

potential to become managers. Employment prospects in industry were found to be less buoyant and secure than they used to be and this meant that the traditional exodus from the profession had slowed down.

In the world of banking, the survey reports that despite the international debt crisis, 30 new banks established themselves in London in 1982, with recruitment of staff at all levels remaining buoyant. It continues to be a well paid

University Appointments

RMIT

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA

The Council of RMIT is seeking to appoint an Associate Director to be responsible for the Technical College, following the retirement of the present incumbent in July 1983.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT APPOINTMENTS IN TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA.

RMIT is a leading Australian Institute of technology offering post-secondary courses in technical and further education (TAFE) and advanced education. RMIT encompasses a Technical College and an Advanced College, located in the centre of Melbourne, governed by a Council with the Director as Chief Executive Officer. RMIT Technical College is the largest TAFE college in Victoria with a 1983 budget of A\$22.5 million. It has a teaching and administrative staff in excess of 900 and each year enrolls 17,000 full-time, part-time and external students of all ages and backgrounds in more than 240 courses.

The position carries responsibility for the Director for all aspects of Technical College management, education, administration, representation of the College and RMIT interests externally within the Victorian TAFE structure, with community, commerce and industry groups, professional bodies and other educational organizations and associations.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS ARE - Extensive high level experience in administration and education; demonstrated qualities of leadership and management ability; appropriate academic qualifications and an understanding of the philosophy and needs of technical and further education.

An attractive salary and benefits package is offered. An attractive Council of invited interested persons to apply for relevant information papers before making formal application.

These enquiries which will be treated in the strictest confidence, must be received by 28th April 1983, and should be addressed to: The President of Council, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Limited, Private Box 372, Carlton South, Victoria, Australia, 3053.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO INVITES CONFIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE POSITION.

The Council reserves the right to appoint by invitation. Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Limited

THE UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

Chair in Computing

Applications are invited for a Chair in Computing. The expectation is that the person appointed will assume responsibility for the Computer Service and for the Department of Computer Studies. Planning of responsibilities to that end will be a first task.

Salary within the Professional range. Present Professional average £28,408. Nine copies of applications, closing 15th April 1983, should be submitted, NOT LATER THAN 15th APRIL 1983, to the Establishment Officer, University House, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YW, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

University of Reading

LECTURESHIP IN DEPARTMENT OF CYBERNETICS

Applications are invited from candidates with a first degree and experience in Cybernetics and the ability to teach principles and logic of communication with computers, with reference to the A-level of language.

The appointment will be for a fixed period of 3 years commencing 1 October 1983. Salary scale £18,976 to £21,500 per annum.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Officer, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 2AH. Please enclose CV and 3 references. Closing date 28 April 1983.

ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE

OXFORD

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN PHILOSOPHY

The College proposes to appoint a temporary Lecturer in Philosophy. The appointment will run from 1st October 1983 to 30th September 1986 and is not renewable beyond that date.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Senior Bursar, St. Hugh's College, Oxford OX2 0LE, in whose applications (15 copies) giving particulars of qualifications and experience and the names of three referees, should be sent to arrive by Saturday 7th May.

University college of swansea

Research Studentship

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a Research Studentship in the Department of Geography, University of Swansea, 1983. The studentship will be chosen from the following two topics:

(A) Comprehensive analysis and development of an ecological approach to the study of the environment. Candidates for this topic should apply to Dr J. A. Hargrave, Department of Geography, University of Swansea, 1983.

(B) Contemporary urban history and development of the urban environment. Candidates for this topic should apply to Dr J. A. Hargrave, Department of Geography, University of Swansea, 1983.

Further details of both topics may be obtained from Dr J. A. Hargrave, Department of Geography, University of Swansea, 1983. Tel: 0312 284711 ext. 7148, to whom applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent not later than 22 April 1983.

Durham University Business School

SMALL BUSINESS CENTRE

Research consultant: Product and Market Development

Applications are invited for the post of Research Consultant: Product and Market Development to work with the Small Business Development Project team at the Small Business Centre of Durham University Business School.

The main objectives of the Consultant will be to research and develop new ways of bringing product ideas to the market. In this role he/she will be encouraged to link with other relevant activities of the centre and in the North East region as a whole and to contribute to the use of existing resources in the Centre. Practical skills in marketing, financial and business planning, and the ability to work with a team and outside organisations are essential. Candidates should be graduates with a degree in business or a related discipline. Salary is negotiable.

The post will be for a period of three years on the Research scale 1A (£6,576-£11,105 per annum) plus superannuation.

Applications (2 copies) together with the names of three referees, should be sent not later than 22nd April 1983 to the Registrar and Secretary, Old Squire Hall, Durham, DH1 3 HP, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Science Librarian

Biological Sciences Librarian

Applications are invited for a post of Biological Sciences Librarian in charge of Biological Sciences in the Science Library, which will be based in the new building in September 1983. The Librarian will serve the departments of Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Pharmacy and Psychology, and have close links with the Medical and Agricultural Libraries. Applicants should be graduates with a degree in one of the fields covered by the Division and have professional qualifications in librarianship or information science, together with relevant experience.

The salary scale is Grade 1A (£6,576-£11,105) with URB. Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Staff Appointments Officer, University of Nottingham, University House, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. Tel: 053 535.

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Edited by Peter Dear

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- 6.00 **Ceefax** AM. News, headlines, sport, weather and traffic details. Available to viewers without a teletext set.
- 6.30 **Breakfast** Time, with Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News at 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 and 9.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; keep fit between 8.45, 7.00 tonight's television preview between 7.15 and 7.30; holiday advice between 7.30 and 8.30; horoscopes between 8.30 and 8.45; good food and cooking guide between 8.45 and 9.00.
- 9.20 **The Wombles**, narrated by Bernard Cribbins (11.25). Jackanory Joanna David reads part of one of the stories of Silver Lake (11.30). **Cartoon** Dipsley Dog in Rockabill House and There's a Crowd 10.00 Why Don't You...? Ideas for children at a loose end and 10.25 Play Chess with Bill Harrison (11.30). **Cartoon** Little Cheeser and Goldilocks and the Three Bears 10.55 **Play** Go! Go! Go! (10.55) starring Denny and Marie Casanova. Extremely light escapade that is mainly a vehicle for the singing stings.
- 12.30 **News After Noon** With Richard Whitmore and Heather Payton. Weather prospects from Jim Bacon 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One 1.45 **Cartoon** For the very young (1.50). **Play** Just an Old Sweet Song (1.50) starring Clocy Tyson and Robert Rooks. Sentimental story about a black family from Detroit on holiday in the south. Directed by Robert Ellis Miller.
- 2.15 **Cartoon** Tom and Jerry 3.25 **See Hear** Magazine programme for the hearing impaired (shown yesterday). 3.50 **Regional News** (London and SE only). **Cartoon** The Czechoslovak made Top Hat Rabbit 4.25 **Thailand This Way**. Education made easy with Johnny Ball 4.40 **Grandstand**, starting Clive Dunn (1.50) John Craven's Newsround 5.10 **Blue Peter**. It's birthday time for five year old Goldie.
- 5.40 **News with Moira Stuart** 6.00 **South East at Six**.
- 6.25 **Regional News**.
- 6.50 **Not Her's** Cartoon Time.
- 7.25 **Met-House**. The millionaire private detective investigates the kidnapping of the ailing son of a Middle Eastern potentate. The boy was taken (by mid-air) from a private jet.
- 8.10 **Panorama** presented by Richard Lindley and Fred Perry. Invisible Earnings: an investigation into Lloyd's of London including an exclusive interview with suspended underwriter, Ian Poggies.
- 9.00 **News with Frances Goodale**.
- 9.35 **File** The Parent Connection (1971) starring Gene Hackman. The story of an unconventional New York policeman dedicated to destroying a drug-smuggling ring operating between Manhattan and New York.
- 11.05 **File** 83 presented by Norman. Reviews of the latest films including Dudley Moore's *Loversick* in which he plays a psychiatrist who falls in love with a patient who, 40 hours, about a criminal who is released from prison in order to convict the rest of his gang. There is also a location shoot with John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson.
- 11.35 **News headlines**.
- 11.55 **Micro** in the Classroom: the micro a help in dealing with the mass of data in a classroom? (1).
- 12.00 **Weather**.

TV-am

- 6.00 **DAYBREAK** with Gavin Scott followed at 6.30 by **GOOD MORNING BRITAIN** presented by Angela Ripston and Anna Ford. News at 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; city news at 6.15; review of the morning papers at 6.30; sport news at 6.45; pop video 8.50; television preview and preview at 7.50; guest celebrity, Yehudi Menuhin at 8.20; soap opera at 8.55; good evening at 9.05; **Clockwork** at 9.15.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.30 **Season Street** Limning with the Muppets 10.30 **Science International**. Michael Benint with the first in a new series that will explore the frontiers of research. 10.35 **Survive**. The last round Up. Capturing Asian elephants (11.30) Film Fun. Derek Griffiths and the history of Hollywood cartoons (11.30).
- 12.00 **Alphabet Zoo**. Nerys Hughes and Ralph McTel with L for Ladybird. 12.10 **Let's Pretend** to the story of The Rag Doll and the King. 12.30 **Work Out**. The first programme in the series and a doctor gives young people advice on social diseases.
- 1.00 **News with Martin Lewis**. 1.30 **Thames News** with Robert Houston. 1.30 **The Disappearing Act**. A programme that looks at the pros and cons of the Wildcat and Countywide Acrobats to save Britain's remaining wildernesses.
- 2.00 **Film: Nellie Melba** (1933) starring Patricia Munnell. A biography of the Australian singer who became a great opera soprano. Directed by Lewis Milestone.
- 4.00 **Alphabet Zoo**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **The News**, narrated by Richard Murdoch. 4.20 **Spiderwoman**. The indestructible arachnid meets the Koyote Spider. 4.45 **Challenge**. David and the Big Game. 4.55 **Cartoon**. The day of the pig. 5.15 **Keep It in the Family** (1).
- 5.45 **News**. 6.00 **Thames News**.
- 6.45 **Help** presented by Ann Shearer. This week the topic is integration in education - the handicapped child and school.
- 6.55 **Overseas**. Oliver Banks reports on the death of Sir John Hooper from Sharon Matze.
- 7.00 **Village Earth**. Two Mexicans, Eduardo Llerenas and Enrique de Arellano, travel the remote villages of their country recording the last disappearing music cultures.
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. Fred Gee boasts about his romantic conquests - a customer at the Rovers' discredits his story.
- 8.00 **Break**. Part six of the hilarious spoof series parodying early variety films even seen on television.
- 8.30 **World in Action**. Labour After Darlington. Michael Foot responds to the Darlington voters' opinion of the Party.
- 9.00 **Okay**. The journalist is a Los Angeles museum in order to find out if there are any jewels hidden inside.
- 10.00 **News**.
- 10.30 **Hill Street Blues**. Police chief Daniels has the police precinct, turned inside out in a search for the governor's missing pet dog.
- 11.30 **File** (1970) starring Boris Karloff. Novelty James Rankin investigates the story of a man who was killed by a car. Directed by Robert Day.
- 12.50 **In His Image** Frances Donnelly illustrates how Jesus's experience in Holy Week is reflected in our lives today.

BBC 2

- 6.05 **Open University: Problems of Pollution** 6.30 **Home: Castle or Cage?** 6.55 **Mattin**. Classifying Cabbie 7.30 **Farming: Organic or Intensive?** 7.45 **A Question of Control** 8.10 **Clockwork**.
- 10.30 **Play School**. Play Ideas Carol. Chant with the last in the series that explores Play School themes.
- 11.00 **Play School**. For the under fives, presented by Floella Benjamin and Ben Thomas. The story is Kate's Up-to-date Day.
- 11.25 **Medicine Help** for 10-level students. Lesson 10: Matrices II 11.40 **Clockwork**.
- 5.10 **Ezra Pound**. An Open University production in which Ezra Pound and his wife, Laura, are shown in a place in contemporary poetry.
- 5.40 **Manhunt of Mystery Island**. Part 13 and Clare and Lance are sent hunting to discover the whereabouts of the missing.
- 5.55 **Pop Carnival**. Highlights of an open-air concert in the Park, Liverpool, featuring Bow Wow Wow, introduced by Steve Blackwell.
- 6.30 **The BBC 2 Film Competition**. The second drama film. The judging panel consists of Carol Foreman, Verity Lambert and Alan Parker.
- 7.15 **100 Great Sporting Moments**. The 100th Anniversary of the British Empire Trophy - a season car race held at Crystal Palace in 1971.
- 7.35 **Grand Prix**. Highlights of the U.S. Grand Prix held yesterday in Long Beach, California. The commentators are Murray Walker and James Hunt.
- 8.10 **Pot Black** 8.35. The first semi-final. Steve Davis meets fellow Londoner, Jimmy White in a two-frame match in which points aggregate prevail if the two contestants win one frame each. Introduced by Alan Weeks with commentary by Ted Lowe.
- 8.45 **My Cousin Rachel**. The final part of the adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's novel. Rachel is a young woman who is introduced to Philip's announcement that they are to marry and the following day he is struck down by a mysterious illness. Starring Geraldine Chaplin as Rachel and Christopher Gertie as her cousin Philip.
- 9.40 **Horizon**. The Race to Ruin. A repeat of the programme about lesser weapons, first shown in November 1981. Based on the book by John H. Hudson's A Shepherd's Life. The uprising grows apace and Isaac reluctantly finds himself inexorably drawn into a deadly war.
- 10.30 **News**.
- 11.00 **Open University: Inorganic Chemistry**. Crystals 12.15 **Telecommunications**. Transmission Lines. 12.45 **Clockwork**.

CHANNEL 4

- 4.45 **Cartoon Alphabet** Tim Brooke-Taylor reaches W and features the old favourite Woody the Woodcock.
- 5.15 **Preview** of the best programmes to be seen on this channel during the coming week.
- 5.30 **The Practical Book Review** presented by Pat Fairbrother. Books on Home Entertainment are assessed in this final programme in the series. The celebrity guinea pigs are the husband and wife team of Chloe Ansell and David Hargreaves with the expert analysis coming from writer and broadcaster, Giles Bracey and Henry Shaw, arts training officer running the 'Play Train' project at the National Playing Fields Resource Centre.
- 5.50 **I Love Lucy** While on a holiday, travelling from Mexico to New York, her husband and her two friends Ethel and Fred, spend a night in a bar. When they reach the border, the border guards refuse to let them pass. Guess who the border guards are?
- 6.30 **Be Your Own Boss** presented by Henry Cooper. The second programme in the series designed to give advice to those thinking of setting up a business on their own. The evening tips are given on choosing the right premises and raising capital.
- 7.00 **Channel Four News** with headlines at 7.30 and city news at 7.40.
- 7.50 **Comment on today's soap box** is the subject of the National Council for Electoral Reform, Richard Holme.
- 8.00 **The First 90 Minutes**. A documentary about Bobby Robson the England football manager and his first season with Ipswich.
- 9.00 **Gunston's Australia**. The incomplete Australian reporter this week returns underground to interview a mother who has been sexually abused by her son. The programme is a version of 'Greece' and joins a radio.
- 9.30 **Stand Your Ground**. The penultimate programme in the series and the last to be shown. It features a mother who has been sexually abused by her son. The programme is a version of 'Greece' and joins a radio.
- 10.00 **Whatever You Didn't Get**. Highlights from five programmes of the series. The programme is a version of 'Greece' and joins a radio.
- 11.00 **Film: Writing on the Wall** (1982). Londoners in 1981 and a soldier who has been shot dead. Leading the investigation is the head of the anti-terrorist squad, Inspector Bond. In this film, acted by amateurs, the Catholics are played by Protestants and vice versa. The director is Armand Gatti.
- 11.10 **Clockwork**.

CHOICE

race between the superpowers to rule the world. What the programme underlines is that it is going to be a very long time, and at an astronomical cost before either of them can produce any remotely reliable laser weapons.

● Bobby Robson, the England football team manager is the subject of the FIRST NINETY MINUTES (Channel 4 8.00pm), a new documentary covering his first weeks as manager of Ipswich Town. The programme's fly-on-the-wall format covers pre-match pep talks, commissions and reactions following defeat, jubilation in victory and Robson's method of motivating a team. The programme also underlines the stresses and strains that any

football manager - successful or otherwise - undergoes to satisfy the club's fans. A lost match has a demoralizing effect not only on the club but the town itself - something that has caused the downfall of many men less talented than Mr Robson.

● The award-winning, nightly, arts programme KALEIDOSCOPE (Radio 4 9.15pm) celebrates its tenth anniversary with a review of its first decade. At first arts had to share equal billing with sciences giving rise to such topics as aggressive anatomy, Yuri Gagarin, and peaceful dentistry on the same programme as theatre, concert and exhibition reviews. Dropping the sciences side was the first step in innovation. How has the format developed since those early days? Paul Vaughan talks to past presenters and contributors.

Radio 2

- 5.0 Ray Moore. 7.30 Terry Wogan. 10.00 Jimmy Young. 12.00 Judy Chalmers. 2.30 Ed Stewart including 3.2 Sports Desk. 4.0 David Hamilton including 4.2, 5.30 Sports Desk. 6.0 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sport Sound 5.57 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Money Movie Quiz. 10.30 Stuart Hall (started from midnight). 1.00 Terry Wogan. 2.00 Sports Desk. 2.45 Pat Kenny. 3.00 Sports Desk. 3.45 Pat Kenny. 4.00 Sports Desk. 4.45 Pat Kenny. 5.00 Sports Desk. 5.45 Pat Kenny. 6.00 Sports Desk. 6.45 Pat Kenny. 7.00 Sports Desk. 7.45 Pat Kenny. 8.00 Sports Desk. 8.45 Pat Kenny. 9.00 Sports Desk. 9.45 Pat Kenny. 10.00 Sports Desk. 10.45 Pat Kenny. 11.00 Sports Desk. 11.45 Pat Kenny. 12.00 Sports Desk. 12.45 Pat Kenny. 1.00 Sports Desk. 1.45 Pat Kenny. 2.00 Sports Desk. 2.45 Pat Kenny. 3.00 Sports Desk. 3.45 Pat Kenny. 4.00 Sports Desk. 4.45 Pat Kenny. 5.00 Sports Desk. 5.45 Pat Kenny. 6.00 Sports Desk. 6.45 Pat Kenny. 7.00 Sports Desk. 7.45 Pat Kenny. 8.00 Sports Desk. 8.45 Pat Kenny. 9.00 Sports Desk. 9.45 Pat Kenny. 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20 Poles from cruise ship ask for asylum

By David Hewson

The Government faces an early test of its policies on political asylum for refugees from Eastern Europe with the defection of at least 20 Poles from the cruise ship *Stefan Batory* which docked at Tilbury on March 15.

The Home Office said last night that 20 Polish nationals from the vessel had now applied for political asylum, but was unable to confirm newspaper reports that as many as nine more could be in hiding in Britain because they were terrified that they would be repatriated.

Lord Bethell, the Conservative member of the European Parliament for London, North-West, who intends to raise the subject of the treatment of East European refugees at Westminster this week, said yesterday that he hoped that none of the Poles would be forcibly handed back to the Polish authorities.

A spokesman for the Home Office said that there was no proof of reports that several Poles from the party were still on the run, but it was hoped that anyone in hiding would approach immigration officials and apply to stay in Britain.

"Everyone will be treated on an individual basis", the spokesman said. "I cannot say how long it would take to reach a decision."

All the Poles who have given themselves up will be judged under the new guidelines introduced by the Home Office five days before their vessel docked at Tilbury and gave them their opportunity for escape.

These rules, as outlined by Mr William Whitelaw, the

Home Secretary, in a Commons written reply, mean that the exceptional treatment of Polish citizens, who were allowed to stay in Britain when martial law was imposed, ended on March 10.

All Poles seeking asylum now will be expected to return to Poland in the normal way, Mr Whitelaw said. "Applications from those who wish to remain here because they are afraid to return will, however, be sympathetically considered on an individual basis."

It is thought that few, if any, of the Polish refugees have strong ties with Britain.

Polish immigrant groups, who have strongly criticized the treatment meted out to the 900 refugees who were given exceptional treatment by the immigration authorities after the imposition of martial law, fear that most of the latest group will be returned to Poland.

Lord Bethell will ask the Home Office this week to guarantee that it will never repeat actions like the recent forcible repatriation of Mr Stancu Papasoiu, the Romanian who spent 11 months in British jails after fleeing his native country.

The Home Office has refused permission for a Polish couple to spend a two-week holiday in London with their daughter, who is married to a British policeman.

The officer Mr James Fellows, aged 53, of Acton, west London, a constable with British Transport Police for 27 years, said yesterday that he had offered to act as surety to guarantee their return to Poland.

Walawa's pledge, page 6

Alliance MPs to meet

Continued from page 1

the advice of others, were jointly convinced.

Mr Jenkins spoke of Mr Steel in the warmest terms as "one of the best if not the best men I have ever worked with in politics". They worked together on the basis of great mutual confidence. Everybody assumed there was great mutual rivalry between them, but that was not the case.

But he admitted that there might be a difficulty with the Liberal rank and file, who are more and more heard to

complain in some parts of the country that the Social Democrats are less committed and less effective at working up support.

The question of the joint leader was put on tomorrow's agenda by Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, who, with Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, wants to ensure that Mr Jenkins is not given precedence over Mr Steel.

What seems to have changed since Darling is that this wish to prevent any precipitate elevation of Mr Jenkins now has the tacit support of Mr Steel



Presidential address: Dr Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia, preaching at the Palm Sunday service in St James's Church, Piccadilly, London. He later flew to France for an official visit. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Industrial order books indicate wide recovery

Continued from page 1

A fully revised set of CBI staff forecasts, prepared since the Budget, is also published today and predicts stronger economic growth this year of about 2 1/2 per cent with gross economic product for the whole year 2 per cent higher than in 1982. Manufacturing output is forecast to rise by 2 1/4 per cent this year and 3 1/2 per cent in 1984. Non-oil imports, however, are forecast to rise by 5 1/4 per cent next year.

Profitability is forecast to continue to rise over the next 18 months and fixed investment is expected to pick up in most sectors, the CBI says. There is little hope of a fall in unemployment, however.

The Budget measures, the CBI economists say, will add less than 1/2 per cent to retail prices

Skilled jobs warning, page 2

Menéndez defends his troops' performance

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

General Mario Benjamín Menéndez, military governor of the Falkland Islands during the Argentine occupation last year, has released a document defending the performance of his troops against internal and external criticism. It is the general's first detailed public statement since the end of the war.

General Menéndez said that the soldiers who fought on the islands "under extreme conditions did all that they could with what they had available at the time to defend our sovereignty".

He pointed out that Argentine forces were inferior to the task force, which "established a total naval blockade, dominated the sea, and exercised almost total air superiority, broken only thanks to the courage and audacity of our pilots".

But, despite that, it needed 45 days of siege, constant air

and naval harassment, and finally, intense and concentrated attacks by land, sea and air before it could overcome the defenders of the islands," he said.

The former governor added that "English artillery, which had a similar calibre to our own, was in much better supply and had a greater range (17 kilometres against 10 km), better capacity to hit targets and greater precision and speed."

General Menéndez was at special pains to answer criticism that Argentine officers did not fight. "Each time the English faced officers and NCOs (professionals), they had serious difficulties to overcome themselves when small units met, our commands defeated them several times (Mount Wall, Two Sisters and Murrell Bridge), forcing them to retreat in a hurry."

TV technicians agree to Central blacking

Television technicians decided yesterday to "black" certain programmes if there is no agreement by July 31 in a dispute over severance pay with Central Television.

The Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT) agreed to the move at its annual conference in London.

Central Television has sent redundancy notices (to take effect on July 31) to 248 ACTT members involved in the dispute over severance pay for staff not wanting to move from the Elstree studios to Birmingham, or a new studio complex in Nottingham.

The technicians agreed to the "blacking of any material or programme, being made elsewhere, that would otherwise have been made at either the Central Independent Television Studios at Elstree or Lenton Lane, Nottingham."

Letter from Aizu Wakamatsu

High tech comes to cherry blossom basin

During the first week of April, the cherry blossom front, as plotted with military precision by Japan's meteorological agency, will invade Aizu Wakamatsu, a fertile basin strategically surrounded by volcanic mountains in north-east Honshu's Fukushima prefecture, having already swept through the milder climes.

As they have for centuries, the sturdy citizens of Aizu will greet this confirmation of spring by consuming large quantities of locally brewed sake, and mildly sweet drink, while making merry under the blooming trees. Aizu is blessed with abundant rice crops, which made it a powerful fiefdom in feudal days, and exceptionally fine water, which assured fame as a centre for producing sake.

Aizu's political and economic star, however, has waned since the last of the Tokugawa shoguns was toppled in 1868. The local warlord clan chose to resist the leaders of the Meiji Restoration - an unsuccessful act, but not soon forgotten by the central government. Aizu missed out on the first stages of modernization.

Like the rest of north-east Japan, known as Tohoku, prosperity came slowly. It was not until last year that the region's first "bullet" train went into service, bringing Aizu to within three hours of the capital.

The people of Aizu remain strikingly clannish and independent minded. They also continue to make some of the best sake in the country. Along with a special form of lacquerware (still favoured as gifts by the imperial family), sake and tourism are what until just recently have served as the most important local industries.

"A city without smokestacks," is how the tourist brochures describe the sprawling community of 114,000 people, an unusual boast indeed for a Japanese city.

Aizu, however, now wants very earnestly to leapfrog its way into the era of high technology. With no lack of zeal, a group of local businessmen has launched a campaign to put Aizu back on the map - the global map, if possible.

"The internationalization of Aizu" may strike a first-time visitor as a rather pretentious slogan for a small, largely agricultural community better

known for mineral baths. The Aizu Junior Chamber of Commerce, however, gathered more than 200 local residents on a recent snowy Sunday afternoon for a seminar on just such a proposition.

Invited as panelists were a Ministry of International Trade and Industry expert on industrial location, a vice-president of Bank of America, a US Embassy official, three foreign correspondents and assorted Japanese professors. The former Mayor of Aizu Wakamatsu served as moderator.

The discussion ranged from how to attract foreign manufacturing investment to how Aizu's industrial park compared with similar developments elsewhere in Japan.

Aizu's interest in high technology is the direct result of Fujitsu, Japan's biggest computer maker, having decided some time ago to locate its largest microchip plant in Japan in the region.

Last year, Motorola, the American electronics company, also bought a plant near by, making electronics the region's biggest single employer, and whetting the local taste for things international.

Aizuites at the seminar were told that foreign companies operating in Japan tend to use Japanese management style. This point, seems to have reassured some participants who remain sceptical of the "internationalization" aspect of high technology. (The Aizu clan, it may be recalled, in its heyday was of the "respect the Emperor, oust the barbarians" school of international thought.)

Quite naturally, the formal programme was followed by a party which featured great wooden barrels of local sake, and a traditional display of local *taiko* (drum) beating. The following morning, after resting at a local hot spring resort, the JCC arranged a tour of local industries.

This began with the local lacquerware house, where artisans were carefully dusting bowls with gold and silver powders. It ended with a visit to the largest of the 48 remaining local sake breweries (there once were 240), where cherry blossom season's equivalent of sake nouveau was being readied.

Richard Hanson

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

The Revival of Dutch Ceramics. Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 7). The Ritual of Gathering grain: photographs by Garry Miller, Usher Gallery, Lincoln Road, Lincoln: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 24). Artists against apartheid. Grave Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Weston: Mon to Sat 10 to 8 (ends tomorrow). Auction tomorrow, 7 pm. Coal: British mining in art 1680-1980. Mappin Art Gallery, Weston

Park, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 1). Architecture by Ernest George. Trubridge, Colchester Castle Museum: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 10). Glass engraving by Alison Geisler. Art Gallery and Museum, Nottingham: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 8). Alive To It All. Arts Council touring exhibition including Klee, Miro and Roger Hilton. Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 24). Life in the country: Nineteenth century English paintings. Towneley

Paintings by John and Jaa Fisher. Silk Top Hat Gallery, 4 Quality Square, London: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends today). Prints from the Compass Gallery, Glasgow, at MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rozele Park, Ayr: Mon to Sat 11 to 5 (from today until April 17). Artists from the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery in London, at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, Newport: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (from today until April 23).

Last chance to see

Work by Kathie Kollwitz. German expressionist. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (ends today).

Talks, lectures

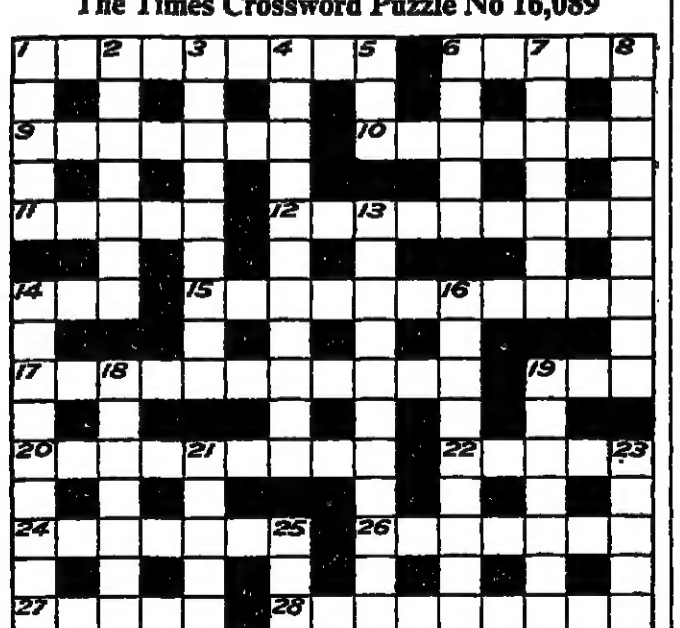
Manchester Lit and Phil Society lecture: Hypocritism in the 18th century. By Dr Jonathan Miller. Opera Theatre, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester, 7.30. Holography, slide lecture by Michael Wrenyon. Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, 7.

Music

Recital by Russell Missin (organ) and Stephen Laird (tenor). Newcastle Cathedral, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4.

Choral and orchestral concert. Doublane Cathedral, 8.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,089



- ACROSS
- Band leader takes bigger instrument first (4,5).
 - Mock wolf (5).
 - One tongue in 24, briefly (7).
 - Duty list Irish police returned to man in charge (7).
 - Dog doing wrong (5).
 - Attack directed at mirth, in a way (9).
 - Knowing one part of a flag (3).
 - Of bearings, in dialect or otherwise (11).
 - Jom the army - one man was a host (11).
 - Some green grocery businesses? (3).
 - Unbridled desire is a characteristic of Danae (9).
 - Cupid for instance turned back to embrace excellent nymph (5).
 - Vindictive geum? About half of it (7).
 - Grud usually applied externally to doctor this complaint (7).
 - "I am dying, ———, dying" (4,6,7,8).
 - Church mouse's enemy - he has fat back (9).
- DOWN
- Fell about interrupting pop (5).
 - Need for expedition in ancient city, and information on city limits (7).
 - How to buy armour? (4,5).
 - Bull ring attracting money once to the far north (4,1,6).
 - By which Sinbad flew from Gibraltar, we hear (3).
 - Well ventilated quarter up in the country (5).
 - Figure of eight? (7).
 - Loser, left in confusion, makes a prediction... (9).
 - ... derived from this momentary possessive? (6,5).
 - Bird in picnic hamper? (9).
 - What apprentice gets his teeth in first? (9).
 - Essay about old drama (7).
 - Moustaineur about to tone his muscles up (7).
 - True blue (5).
 - Live and dead pour forth (5).
 - Dry start to 13 (3).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,088 will appear next Saturday

The Times/Halifax house price index

| Month | Index | Average price (£) | % change over the preceding 1 year | % change over the preceding 5 months |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1977 December | 100.0 | 14,737 | 21.2 | 10.7 |
| 1978 December | 111.1 | 17,729 | 20.3 | 3.8 |
| 1979 December | 115.8 | 22,291 | 24.8 | 9.8 |
| 1980 December | 126.8 | 24,743 | 20.9 | 1.4 |
| 1981 January | 127.7 | 24,752 | 21.0 | 0.8 |
| February | 128.5 | 25,164 | 21.3 | 1.7 |
| March | 129.2 | 25,164 | 21.3 | 0.1 |
| April | 129.7 | 25,262 | 21.4 | 0.4 |
| May | 130.1 | 25,075 | 21.5 | 0.1 |
| June | 130.5 | 25,075 | 21.6 | 0.4 |
| July | 130.8 | 25,075 | 21.7 | 0.5 |
| August | 131.1 | 25,075 | 21.8 | 0.2 |
| September | 131.4 | 25,075 | 21.9 | 0.1 |
| October | 131.7 | 25,075 | 22.0 | 0.1 |
| November | 132.0 | 25,075 | 22.1 | 0.1 |
| December | 132.3 | 25,075 | 22.2 | 0.1 |
| January | 132.6 | 25,075 | 22.3 | 0.1 |
| February | 132.9 | 25,075 | 22.4 | 0.1 |

Average regional prices of second-hand houses (not necessarily adjusted)

| Region | Index | Average price (£) | % change over the preceding 1 year | % change over the preceding 5 months |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| North | 100.0 | 14,737 | 21.2 | 10.7 |
| North-east | 111.1 | 17,729 | 20.3 | 3.8 |
| North-west | 115.8 | 22,291 | 24.8 | 9.8 |
| East Midlands | 126.8 | 24,743 | 20.9 | 1.4 |
| West Midlands | 127.7 | 24,752 | 21.0 | 0.8 |
| East of England | 128.5 | 25,164 | 21.3 | 1.7 |
| South-east | 129.2 | 25,164 | 21.3 | 0.1 |
| South-west | 129.7 | 25,262 | 21.4 | 0.4 |
| Greater London | 130.1 | 25,075 | 21.5 | 0.1 |
| Wales | 130.5 | 25,075 | 21.6 | 0.4 |
| Scotland | 130.8 | 25,075 | 21.7 | 0.5 |
| Northern Ireland | 131.1 | 25,075 | 21.8 | 0.2 |

The Times/Halifax House Price Index rose to 132.9 in February, reversing the downward trend of the previous month. The average price of second-hand houses is now £25,075, seasonally adjusted which is marginally above the figure of two months ago and 14.5 per cent higher than a year ago.

At the end of the month of February, only two regions showed price increases - the South-east and Greater London - compared with the previous three months, while in Scotland average prices fell by 8.5 per cent over the same period.

It is believed the Chancellor's measures announced in the Budget to raise the mortgage tax threshold to £20,000 will have a marginal impact on prices throughout the country. The North and the South-east, the South-east and Greater London where average prices are around £28,000.

Nature notes

The first and martins have arrived from Southern Africa. They feed with quick turns of the wing over gravel pits and rivers; they have a sharp, rattling call, like a pack of cards being flicked. Solitary wheatears are seen on playing-fields and commons; they have wintered in the tropics and now head for low-level uplands in Britain. The first chaffinches are back and singing freely as they make for their woodland territories; they have had the shortest journey, from Spain and North Africa. At first they feed in low bushes, but they will soon be high in the treetops. Starlings were their wings vigorously as they sing; they are warbling of other males, or trying to attract a mate if they are still without one.

In the apple orchards, there are pale green grubs on the minuscule chumps. Horse chestnut buds are shedding their brown scales and revealing themselves as pink and green. Butterflies are coming out from hibernation. Small tortoiseshells that have spent the winter in garages and hollow trees are seen on the dandelions and the gold sallow catkins. They usually open their wings when they settle, for the pale, primrose-yellow brimstone butterflies keep their wings shut tight.

Anniversaries

Birth: Saint Teresa of Avila, Avila, Spain, 1515; Cornelia Heymans, Nobel laureate in physiology, 1938, Ghent, 1892. Peg Woffington, actress, died in London, 1760. England and France declared war on Russia - the beginning of the Crimean War, 1854. Nationalist forces entered Madrid - the end of the Spanish Civil War, 1939.

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Weather forecast

A cold N airstream will become established over Britain as pressure builds from W.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, SE England: Very showery; sunny intervals later; and N backing NW, moderate or fresh, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F). NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F).

Central & SE England, Midlands, Lake District, S. Wales, NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F). NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S. Wales: Showers, sunny intervals later; and N backing NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F).

SE England, S. Wales, NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F). NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F).

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SE England, S. Wales, NW, fresh or strong, locally strong at first, max 5 to 7°C (41 to 43°F). NW,